FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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22 July Middle East and South Asia Review

LD221310 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq War

Further Reaction to UN Resolution — UN Security Council Resolution No 598 was applauded by the Kuwaiti foreign minister, who told KUNA he was particularly pleased that it was unanimously endorsed. Egypt also expressed support for the resolution in a statement cited by MENA.

However, Tehran radio lambasted the Security Council's "duplicitous stands" that indicate its "indirect support" for Iraq, reaffirming that Iran will only accept a UN resolution that openly condemns Iraq's "flagrant aggression." Discussing the possibility of a U.S.-Iranian military confrontation, a radio commentary urged President Reagan to remember that it would be much "sweeter" for Iranians to kill "aggressive Yankees" than to kill Iraqi troops.

In Lebanon, Hizballah leader Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli told a gathering in Ba'labakk that "accepting the Security Council resolution means striking at Islam," and he declared a "jihad" against the United Nations, according to AFP. However, Syria warned the Islamic Jihad and other organizations holding foreign hostages that it will not stand idle if they execute their hostages, according to a UAE press report cited by WAKH. Meanwhile, Iran's ambassador to Damascus travelled to Tabriz to give Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, IRNA noted.

Military Developments — Iranian troops "crushed" a "desperate" Iraqi attempt to advance in the Al-Faw sector the morning of 21 July, Tehran radio announced, adding that 300 Iraqis were killed or wounded. The Iraqi communique for 21 July, broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, did not mention any Iraqi offensive. According to an Iranian communique cited by IRNA, Iranian forces also "smashed" a 20 July Iraqi counteroffensive in the Sumar region, inflicting 600 casualties.

Egypt

Relations With Libya — In remarks cited by MENA, President Husni Mubarak declared that his country has no "evil intentions" toward Libya. Mubarak noted that while Egypt only wants "good-neighborliness," Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi creates problems between the two neighboring countries. The president revealed that the "Egyptian opposition," which is "part of the system," is in contact with Libya regarding the return of Egyptian citizens held there.

Talks With Soviets — Foreign Ministry officials held a "comprehensive review" of international issues with a Soviet delegation that arrived 20 July for 3 days of talks, MENA reported, citing a statement by the director of the Ministry's Department for International Organizations. The consultations are part of Egypt's "campaign of discussions" toward the convening of an international conference on the Middle East.

Suspected Terrorists Arrested — Four youths arrested in the Pyramids area for stealing license plates have been identified as members of factions of the Jihad Organization, the London-based newspaper *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* reported, adding that security officials believe the detainees were involved in the 26 May attack on U.S. Embassy employees.

Israel

Soviet Official's Departure — Reporting on Soviet consular delegation chief Yevgeniy Antipov's departure for "consultations" in Moscow, *'Al Hamishmar* said he will return to Israel and may be joined by a Soviet political figure who will be authorized to conduct talks with Israel beyond the scope of consular affairs.

Missile Range — Israel has test-fired a new version of the Jericho missile which flew over 500 miles before landing in the Mediterranean, the Geneva monthly *Revue Internationale de Defense* disclosed in a report cited by AFP. The missile is thought to have a maximum range of around 900 miles, thus giving the Israelis the power to launch nuclear warheads on all capitals of their potential enemies, the monthly stated.

Yemeni Unity Talks in Sanaa

YSP Central Committee Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid confirmed that his talks with YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih are part of "joint unity efforts" aimed at "reuniting the homeland," and he said the visit will start a process that will culminate in the proclamation of a united state, Sanaa radio noted. The PDRY official expressed hope that his talks with Col Salih will "enhance unity action" by promoting joint ventures and facilitating citizens' freedom of movement between the two parts of Yemen. He also reportedly referred to Sanaa as "the capital of the expected united state," a remark not contained in otherwise similar reportage of his remarks by Aden radio.

Maghreb

The national oil companies of Libya, Algeria, and Tunisia have agreed to participate in a project to build pipelines to transport natural gas for industrial use, according to Libyan oil corporation sources cited by JANA. The sources noted that the project falls within the framework of Libyan and Algerian efforts toward economic integration in the region and pan-Arab unity.

Afghanistan

In remarks broadcast by Moscow television, PDPA General Secretary Najibullah declared that the withdrawal of the "limited Soviet contingent" is "indissolubly and dialectically" linked to the ending of aggression and interference in Afghan affairs. On the subject of the indirect talks in Geneva, Najibullah told the press conference that the DRA delegation's approach will continue to be "flexible and constructive." Following his "short visit," Najibullah left Moscow for Krasnodar; he was seen off by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Anatoliy Dobrinin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, *Bakhtar* reported.

Government Supports UN Security Council Resolution

NC211500 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA) — Egypt has expressed its support for yesterday's UN Security Council resolution on the Gulf war, describing it as important because it deals with a conflict that has continued for years.

Egypt hopes that both parties will be committed to the implementation of this resolution, particularly since it calls on each party to cease fire, to halt military operations, and to withdraw from the other side's territory. Ambassador 'Amr Musa, director of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organizations, made these remarks in a statement today.

Official Talks Begin With Soviet Delegation

NC211557 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA) — Official Egyptian-Soviet talks opened at the Foreign Ministry today. Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, led the Egyptian delegation to the talks. The Soviet delegation was headed by Mikhail Systenko, Soviet assistant foreign minister [title as received], who arrived in Cairo last evening on a 3-day visit. The Egyptian delegation included Ambassador 'Amr Musa, director of the Department for International Organizations at the Foreign Ministry, while the Soviet team comprised Gennadiy Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador in Cairo, and members of the delegation accompanying the Soviet official.

In a statement following the 2-hour talks, Ambassador Musa said that both sides had conducted a comprehensive review of all international problems, particularly current developments in the Middle East and the Gulf war. He added: We held an in-depth discussion on the question of an international peace conference and the prospects for its convocation in order to give impetus to the peace process in the Middle East. He pointed out that this meeting came within the context of consultations between Egypt and the Soviet Union and was part of the campaign of discussions that Egypt is undertaking with various countries to bring about an international conference so that a just and comprehensive settlement may be reached in the region.

Ambassador Musa noted that during the talks, the Soviet official had explained his country's position with regard to all the topics under discussion, particularly those related to disarmament, the security of Europe, and the matters to be raised during the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly in September.

For his part, Mikhail Systenko, speaking to reporters after the meeting, described the talks as fruitful. He said that views had been exchanged on several international issues of mutual interest. He noted that the interests of all countries are so closely related and interwined that it is important for them to consult with each other and to exchange views, particularly on those issues to be discussed at the upcoming UN General Assembly session, as well as regional problems.

As for the Middle East issue, the Soviet official noted his country's clear-cut position in this respect; namely, the need for a just and comprehensive solution to this problem. The history of the problem proves that the matter cannot be solved by war, he added. For this reason, he continued, we proposed the formation of a preparatory committee for an international conference during the previous UN General Assembly session. He noted that at a conference of this kind it would be possible to solve all the problems that have accumulated around the main issue, which is the need to give the Palestinian people the right of free choice and self-determination.

The Soviet official later held another meeting with Ambassador Musa to continue their discussion of issues of mutual interest, particularly the Middle East and the Gulf war.

Debt Crisis Jeopardizes Mubarak's U.S. Visit

PM221111 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Jul 87 p 1

['Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sitar report: "Military Debt Crisis Threatens Postponement of Mubarak's Visit to Washington"]

[Text] *Al-Wafd* has learned that President Husni Mubarak's expected visit to Washington, scheduled to take place this coming November, will be postponed indefinitely in protest of the U.S. Administration's refusal to comply with Egypt's requests.

Egypt recently asked for a reconsideration of the U.S. Congress decision to suspend monetary assistance, amounting to $115 million, to Egypt. In the budget for fiscal 1988, Congress has allocated $815 million in economic aid for Egypt, part of which takes the form of loans for imports. In a request to the State Department, however, Egypt said that it was legally entitled to have part of the aid in cash to satisfy its liquidity needs before the fiscal year starts in October. Likewise, the United States rejected Egypt's requests for the rescheduling of the $4.5 billion accumulated military debts (from 1978-1983); a reduction in the annual loan repayment, which amounts to $765 million; a reduction in the interest rate on the military debts from 14 to 7 percent; and the prompt delivery of the new consignment of F-16 planes for which Egypt signed a contract 2 years ago, in addition to the delivery of another reconnaissance plane.

Moreover, the United States rejected Egypt's special requests to obtain the balance of the aid program for previous years, relating to unfinished projects, in the form of cashable checks in order to facilitate the cash-flow situation and to finance some of the needs of the second 5-year plan (1987-1992). Egypt had agreed to all U.S. conditions related to the holding of joint military maneuvers involving Egyptian and U.S. forces scheduled for 19 August.

During the course of last week, the Ministry of Planning failed to persuade the U.S. AID [Agency for International Development] to increase monetary assistance to Egypt from $200 million to $315 million. *Al-Wafd* has learned that two high-level Egyptian delegations will soon be heading for Washington. One of them — economic — is headed by Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, and the other — military — is led by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and

military production. They will hold talks with administration officials in an attempt to eliminate the differences between the two countries.

Mubarak To Reopen Cairo PLO Offices 'in August'

JN211429 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 20 Jul 87 pp 1, 21

[Text] *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* has learned that during his recent talks with Shim'on Peres in Geneva, President Husni Mubarak affirmed that he will reopen the PLO offices in Cairo in August. The paper has also learned that Yasir 'Arafat will pay an official visit to Cairo immediately after the PLO offices reopen in Cairo. It is believed that a tripartite meeting of President Mubarak, King Husayn, and Yasir 'Arafat will take place in Cairo shortly.

In response to attempts by Shim'on Peres to dissuade him from reopening the PLO offices in Cairo, President Mubarak asserted that the issue of reconciliation between Egypt and the PLO is an internal one, that Egypt rejects any interference in its domestic affairs, and that reconciliation is necessary to advance the peace process in the region.

Joint Economic Talks With Sudan Conclude 21 Jul

NC211912 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA) — The economic talks held between Egypt and Sudan over the last 4 days concluded here today. During these talks, which were headed by the Egyptian and Sudanese economy ministers, a review was made of the implementation of the trade protocol signed by the two countries in Khartoum in February.

Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa expressed the hope that the next trade protocol would bring about an increase in the volume of trade between the two countries and an expansion of bilateral relations in order to serve the interests of the peoples of the Nile Valley. For his part, Sudanese Trade Minister Dr Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil noted that many of the obstacles hindering the implementation of this protocol were eliminated during this round of talks. He also voiced hope that the volume of bilateral trade would increase under the forthcoming trade protocol, expected to be signed in Khartoum early next year.

According to the reports prepared by the committees in charge of reviewing the implementation of the Egyptian-Sudanese trade protocol, Egypt's exports to Sudan have increased in the fields of industrial and agricultural products and production materials. The Egyptian and Sudanese teams agreed on the procedures to settle the outstanding financial problems between the two countries, to increase border trade, and to facilitate the customs procedures in order to ease the transport of commodities and the exchange of services between the two sisterly countries. Furthermore, agreement was reached for a meeting between experts from the two countries to convene in Khartoum in October to prepare a protocol for 1988 and a new barter deal for the same year.

The Sudanese trade minister and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo on Friday [17 July] for talks with Egyptian officials on the implementation of the trade protocol. He is scheduled to leave Cairo for his country tomorrow.

Sudanese Trade Minister Departs

NC220642 Cairo MENA in English 0600 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, July 22 (MENA) -- Sudanese Minister of Trade and Cooperation Dr Hasan Khalil 'Abd al-Jalil left here early this morning following a four-day visit to Egypt.

During his visit the Sudanese officials held talks with Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Yusri Mustafa as well as with other Egyptian officials on means to follow-up the implementation of the Sudanese-Egyptian trade protocol signed last February in Khartoum.

Officials in both countries agreed to hold a meeting in Khartoum in October to prepare for the 1988 protocol.

Sudanese State Minister Stops Over in Cairo

NC211619 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA) — Lieutenant General Fadlallah Nasir, Sudanese minister of state for defense affairs, arrived in Cairo this afternoon from Amman. The Sudanese official, who is scheduled to depart from Cairo for Khartoum later tonight, was met at the airport by Staff Major General Faruq Sa'id, commander of the Central Military Zone.

Ministry Studying Impact of Israeli-African Ties

PM220939 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Jul 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Discusses Confronting Results of Restoration of Israeli-African Relations"]

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi confirmed in a statement to *Al-Wafd* that relations between Egypt and the African states are good on both the political and commercial levels. He also emphasized that the restoration of Israeli-African relations does not constitute a major threat to Egypt's exports, taking into consideration the importance of the African markets to Egypt.

The prime minister stated that Egypt is endeavoring to conclude more balanced deals and to establish joint projects with African states to ensure Egypt's foothold in the African market. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, told *Al-Wafd* that the Foreign Ministry is studying the impact of the restoration of Israeli-African relations on Egypt's export market. He noted that our embassies in Africa are presently preparing such studies. The foreign minister added: We do not deny the danger of the restoration of relations between Israel and African states for Egypt's exports. We will endeavor, in cooperation with other ministries, to hold on to the African market and to support the Al-Nasr export-import firms, whose branches are to be found in most African countries.

Assembly Official Discusses Security Issues
JN210749 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
16 Jul 87 p 10

[Interview with Lieutenant General Kamal Henry Abadir, chairman of the Defense and National Security Committee at the Egyptian People's Assembly, by an unidentified correspondent in Cairo — date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] To begin with, we would like you to give us some information about the nature of the committee's work.

[Abadir] The Defense and National Security Committee is one of the important committees of the People's Assembly. In fact, the comprehensive concept of national security covers criminal, political, economic, and social security within the country. It also covers any external threats. Our Armed Forces are responsible for protecting the homeland's security from any threat which may come from land, sea, or air. The Armed Forces sometimes support the internal security apparatus when they are requested to do so in order to protect the constitutional legitimacy. The internal security apparatus and the police force protect the internal front from any dangers. They also protect the rear lines of the Armed Forces when the latter goes off to fight an external enemy.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that there should be changes in the Armed Forces after signing the peace treaty with Israel?

[Abadir] Our valiant Armed Forces, which achieved the great October victory in 1973 and restored dignity to Egypt and the Arab nation, must continue to undergo continuous development, for the peace achieved with Israel can only be protected by force. Furthermore, the establishment of peace should not lead to military lethargy. The Armed Forces are the shield which protects the homeland from all threats. In the absence of a strong Armed Forces, the door would be open for external pressures that could undermine the national political decisionmaking.

Hence, what is needed is to maintain a strong Armed Forces with a high level of combat readiness, which will enable them, God willing, to reach the stage of deterrence. By deterrence, I mean thwarting any aggression threatening the homeland. This deterrence would also make the enemy think twice, nay, three times, before deciding to launch an aggression against us. Achieving this objective basically requires bringing about development in various areas: armament, organization, and training. This must be accompanied by using the most advanced technological improvements in these areas, beginning with the modernization of training at military institutes and academies and ending with supplying the various primary branches of our military units with the most sophisticated weapons.

[Correspondent] Would this lead to drawing up huge budgets that may negatively affect the national economy?

[Abadir] We have clearly noticed that the modernization of the Armed Forces has not exceeded the budgets allocated for this modernization. There is in fact a rationalization of expenditure in this regard. This rationalization helps to bring about the desired modernization, but not at the expense of the size of the Armed Forces. However, our modernization efforts in this regard are directed at quality and never at quantity. In conclusion, I can say that this committee is performing important tasks. These tasks cover many apparatuses. The police, for example, have various specialties, including preserving the people's living resources, insuring that taxes are collected in the best possible manner, protecting water resources to prevent agricultural soil erosion and to safeguard fisheries; and combating terrorism. The police are also responsible for criminal security and for observing the development of criminal phenomena to prevent crimes from occurring. Finally, any legislation governing the apparatuses' performance of their duties must be approved by this committee. The committee then submits the proposed legislation to the People's Assembly, which has the right to ratify it and to issue it as a law governing all of these apparatuses in the performance of their duties.

[Correspondent] What can you tell us about Egypt's decision to diversify its arms sources?

[Abadir] In brief, I want to say that diversifying our arms sources and maintaining a continuous modernization of our national war production to enable us to reach an advanced phase in this field is inevitable. This is taking place with regard to all types of ammunition, light or heavy, which our military factories are producing. There are also many factories now manufacturing our military requirements for barrels for the most sophisticated artillery weapons. We have entered the phase of producing armed vehicles. We are on the road to producing tanks. Furthermore, our factories are producing certain types of training planes. With a license, we can manufacture the Mirage-2000 plane, in addition to the Alpha jet. Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah is currently coordinating with Turkey and other places to produce parts of the F-16 plane, as well as certain types of armed vehicles. Hence, we are working to build a strong and advanced military production base utilizing the experiences of friendly states everywhere. At the same time, we have reached a stage of production whereby our Armed Forces' needs are being fully met while the surplus is exported. To the best of my knowledge, we have supplied Iraq with many of its military requirements in arms and ammunition at prices very much cheaper than those for similar arms and ammunition imported from foreign, Eastern and Western, states.

Our efforts to diversify our arms sources also free us from the effects of any pressure which might be exerted on us if we were to depend on only one arms source, something that happened when we were depending on arms imports from the Eastern bloc and the Soviet Union.

[Correspondent] What about the U.S. role in this regard?

[Abadir] Despite the fact that the United States is our major arms supplier and that it is helping us to obtain grants and loans, we are still acquiring arms from many other Western states. We have also begun to restore the balance by contacting the Soviet Union in order to obtain spare parts for the weapons it previously supplied us with. In conclusion, our factories are currently producing spare parts and equipment to make up for the shortages caused by the Eastern bloc's failure to supply us with these parts and equipment.

[Correspondent] Launching the Arab Organization for War Industries has been an important step toward achieving Arab self-sufficiency in arms and ammunition. Now that the Arab states have withdrawn from this organization, can Egypt achieve this objective on its own?

[Abadir] No one can deny that the Arab Organization for War Industries constitutes a great hope for all Arab peoples, not only for Egypt. But for reasons I do not want to divulge right now, the Arab states that had contributed to the organization's capital have withdrawn. However, Egypt has continued to modernize the products of the Arab Organization for War Industries as it believes this Arab estrangement is a temporary one. In the end, the Arab states are bound to contribute again to the organization's capital in order to benefit from this project.

I believe that the Arab Organization for War Industries has been performing its duties in the best possible manner since it was launched. In the performance of its duties, it coordinates fully with the Egyptian military factories in order to avoid duplication of production. In light of the rapprochement we are currently witnessing between the Arab states and Egypt, we hope the Arab states that have withdrawn from the organization will rejoin it to support it financially and to reap certain benefits that will serve the interests of these states, Egypt, and the entire Arab World.

Security Arrests 4 Members of Al-Jihad Faction

NC220959 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 July p 3

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Egyptian] Security officials have arrested four youths belonging to extremist groups in the Al-Haram area as they were stealing car registration plates. Many forged registration plates in the detainees' possession were seized. Extremists have used such plates on stolen cars while perpetrating their acts and then eluding security forces. A responsible source has stated that the authorities believe the suspects will reveal a new organization behind a number of recent political assassination attempts made by firing from cars bearing forged metal registration plates. The official affirmed that these suspects belong to recently formed factions of the Al-Jihad organization, excluding original members of the organization, who are registered at the state's security department and thus under police watch. It is likely that these four were behind the incidents involving the [U.S.] Embassy employees and Mukarram Muhammad Ahmad in view of the fact that a number of registration plates belonging to Mark 128 cars — the type used in the Mukarram Muhammad Ahmad incident — were seized in their possession. Al-Jizah security officials have affirmed that the four men are affiliated with an extremist organization with several factions throughout various governorates, which has drawn up plans to perpetrate a number of political assassinations. The suspects have been referred to the state's Security Investigations Department, which will examine their methods of action and attempt to discover their plans in order to arrest the rest of the organization's members. Announcement of these subsequent arrests is expected soon. [passage omitted]

People's Assembly Speaker Returns From India

NC211900 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA) — People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo this afternoon after a week-long visit to India.

In an arrival statement, Dr al-Mahjub said that he would convey two verbal messages to President Mubarak from the Indian president and prime minister in response to President Mubarak's messages to the two Indian leaders. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Envoys Deliver Maghreb Assembly Letter

Arrive in Rabat 20 Jul

LD201815 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Amor Chedli, director of the Presidential Office and acting Tunisian foreign minister, arrived in Morocco today with a message for His Majesty King Hassan II from his brother, Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba. Amor Chedli is accompanied on his official visit by Hedi Baccouche, the minister of social affairs. [passage omitted]

Received by King Hassan

LD210324 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Excerpt] This evening at the royal palace in Skhirat, His Majesty King Hassan II received Mr Amor Chedli, director of the Tunisian Presidential Office and acting Tunisian foreign minister, and Mr Hedi Baccouche, Tunisian minister of social affairs. They are the envoys of President Habib Bourguiba to His Majesty King Hassan II. [passage omitted]

Message on Maghreb Assembly

LD211731 Paris International Service in French
1245 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] The visit by the Tunisian foreign minister to Rabat is much more important than previously believed. Amor Chedli in fact is bringing a message from President Bourguiba to King Hassan II. We are able to reveal to you exclusively the contents of this letter. It concerns preparations for establishing a Maghreb Consultative Assembly. Thus, 30 years later we are reverting to the spirit of the Tangiers conference of 1958. Here is our correspondent (Farida Moha):

[(Moha)] Representatives of the Moroccan parties USFP [Socialist Union of Popular Forces] and Istiqlal met with deputies of the Algerian FLN and the Tunisian Destourian parties in Algiers in April 1986 and proposed returning to the political spirit of the 1958 Maghreb Conference of Tangiers. They would in this way lay the foundations of the Maghreb Consultative Assembly, in order to find a way out of the regional impasse. After long debate, the heads of the delegations — Cherif Messaadia, Hedi Baccouche, M'hamed Boucetta, and Abderrahim Bouabid — all reached agreement.

In June 1986 the Moroccan king supported this idea by sending a letter to the Moroccan Parliament. In a speech to the FLN Central Committee 1 year later, President Chadli Bendjedid in turn gave his agreement to this plan. The idea of this Maghreb Assembly was the subject of various talks that took place in Rabat this month between King Hassan II and Algerian Foreign Minister Taleb Ibrahimi, and yesterday with Amor Chedli, the acting Tunisian minister of foreign affairs.

The latter stated, following his visit to Rabat, that the present consultations should permit realization of the peoples' aspirations for constructing a Greater Maghreb.

It appears that the dispute over a Maghreb of the peoples or a Maghreb of the states has now been overcome. We are able to reveal to you that King Hassan II and Presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Habib Bourguiba have given their agreement to constitute this assembly. It will be a framework for dialogue and consultations on political, economic, and social problems in the Maghreb.

There remain, naturally, the practical arrangements, which will be discussed shortly. According to certain reports from Rabat, this assembly will be constituted from 40 deputies from each country — Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia — and will be held annually in turn in one of the three capitals.

Tunisian Officials Depart

LD211945 Rabat MAP in English 1228 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Rabat, July 21 (MAP) — M. Amor Chedli, minister-head of the Tunisian presidential staff and interim foreign affairs minister, left here Tuesday after a short visit to Morocco during which he delivered the Moroccan sovereign a message from President Habib Bourguiba.

The Tunisian emissary who was accompanied by Social Affairs Minister Hedi Baccouche said King Hassan II has entrusted him with a message destined to President Bourguiba and affirmed that Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed's visit to Tunisia in August would further consolidate relations between the two brotherly countries.

Minister Departs for Addis Ababa OAU Meeting

JN201036 Khartoum SUNA in English
1008 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, July 20 (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Muhammad Tawfiq left today for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, heading Sudan's delegation to the meetings of the Organization of the African Unity, OAU, ministerial council scheduled to be held there today, Monday, in order to prepare for the African summit conference on current July 27.

The ministerial council will prepare its recommendations regarding the African Continent political, economic and liberation movements problems which will be submitted to the summit conference.

The African ministers will also discuss the African stands towards the issues of the Middle East, the Palestinian question and the Chadian problem, director of the African Department at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry said to the daily *Al-Siyasah* published here today.

On the other hand *Al-Siyasah*, in its editorial today, criticized Sudan participation in the meetings, which will be held in Ethiopia, by a high level delegation while Ethiopia continue its aggressions against the Sudanese territories and continue its support to [SPLA leader] Garang's movement.

USSR To Mediate Between Government, Ethiopia

JN181919 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic
16 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] Khartoum — *Al-Ittihad* has learned that the Soviet Union has prepared a four-point peace plan to end outstanding issues between Khartoum and Addis Ababa. The USSR has also shown flexibility toward the Sudanese Government's request for contributions to Sudanese projects in the agricultural, animal husbandry, and textile sectors.

The USSR ambassador to Khartoum told *Al-Ittihad* that a Sudanese delegation will visit Moscow in the next 2 weeks to define Sudan's needs in the above-mentioned fields.

Al-Mirghani Returns From Abroad, Makes Statement

JN211828 Khartoum SUNA in English
1736 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum July 21 (SUNA) — Chairman of the State Council Ahmad al-Mirghani has said that Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will visit Sudan next August at the invitation extended by him during a private visit to Egypt.

Al-Mirghani in a statement today said he had met during his visit to Egypt with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and reviewed with him bilateral relations and international issues of mutual concern.

Al-Mirghani who also visited Greece, Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany said that he held several meetings with the officials in these countries.

In Greece he said he made talks with the president of the Republic and the prime minister who he acquainted with the democratic process in Sudan and the dimensions of the southern Sudan problem and the efforts being exerted for settling it as well as the Middle East problem.

In W. Germany and Italy Al-Mirghani said that he met with the senior officials there and acquainted them with the new system in Sudan. Al-Mirghani returned from Egypt early today (Tuesday).

Minister on Movements in East, Resources

JN211317 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1017 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Jul (SUNA) — Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy prime minister and minister of interior, has stated that there is no threat to the nation's security and that competent authorities are monitoring all tampering with the country's resources. He declared that tampering with necessities must be halted and asserted that the scarcity of some commodities is artificial.

Commenting on reports of movements in eastern Sudan, the minister said that these are not unusual given Ethiopia's stand.

Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn made these remarks following the regular meeting of the National Defense Council last evening. The council discussed the situation in southern Sudan and the demonstrations and disturbances that have escalated in Khartoum in recent days.

Radio, TV Workers Stage 24-Hour Strike 20 Jul

JN201212 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1026 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Jul (SUNA) — Radio and television employees began a 24-hour strike at 1000 this morning. They demanded the removal of the National Corporation for Radio and Television's director general on the grounds that it is impossible to cooperate with him and that he opposes granting employees their rights. The strikers also demanded a purge of the corporation's May regime supporters. This is in addition to the need to expedite implementation of the terms of service according to the corporation regulations approved during the transitional period.

Meanwhile, the strike will halt radio and television transmission in the capital and at regional stations.

Presidential Envoys Off to Morocco, Mauritania
LD201344 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba has ordered Amor Chedli, minister [not further specified] director of the Presidential Office and acting minister of foreign affairs, and Minister of Social Affairs Hedi Baccouche to depart for Morocco and Mauritania. There they will convey messages to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and His Excellency President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania's head of state.

The two presidential envoys departed Tunis this morning for the Kingdom of Morocco. From there they will leave for Mauritania.

Prime Minister's Statement on 7-Year Plan Noted
LD201419 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Excerpts] [Announcer] We now come to the second important part of our bulletin, which concerns the government's statement on the 7-year plan. It is presented by Rachid Sfar at the House of Deputies on behalf of President Habib Bourguiba. Now, to news correspondents Rafiqah Mahjub and Ould Amami.

[Mahjub] Today's morning session was distinguished by Prime Minister Rachid Sfar delivering on behalf of President Habib Bourguiba a statement on the 7-year plan. It was described by the House of Deputies' speaker as the blueprint for facing challenges, standing united to preserve accomplishments realized by the supreme combatant, and responding to the Tunisian people's aspirations.

The government statement is divided into sections on the most important economic sectors, including objectives the government is pursuing in these fields. Richid Sfar stressed that the 7-year plan's main features were represented by continuing efforts to face destiny's challenges. Foremost among these challenges is unemployment and its repercussions at the level of both individuals and the nation. This is in view of its connection to the level of population growth, which is still high despite efforts made to control it.

[Amami] Rachid Sfar also noted that the 7-year plan aims at achieving a 4-percent increase in gross national product. This would be accomplished through increased attention being paid to agriculture, manufacturing industries, and tourism. These ambitions are within our reach, and the government will allocate an investment totaling 10,400,000 Tunisian dinars to them.

The prime minister also stressed the need to maintain budgetary balances and to make efforts to finance a large proportion of investment from national savings. This is to aid in curbing foreign borrowing. The government is determined to control the amount of its debt and to direct revenue to productive investments, and will gradually reduce the balance of payments deficit. [passage omitted]

As for tax reform, the prime minister stated that the 7-year plan aimed at [word indistinct] single dues and value-added tax and adjusting customs duties. [passage omitted]

INTER-GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Chief on 'Kuwaiti Measures,' Gulf Security

JN211557 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Manama, July 21 (GNA) — The international community must participate in ensuring the freedom of navigation in Hormuz Strait, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah said. In an interview with Bahrain television to be broadcast this evening he said that the Co-operation Council's philosophy is that the freedom of navigation in international passages is a responsibility to be shouldered by the world countries.

Regarding measures adopted by the Council to face the sensitive situation in the region, Bisharah said the recent GCC ministerial council meeting in Jeddah had frank discussions on the dangers being faced by the region and supported measures taken by Kuwait to safeguard its commercial interests and its territorial waters. He added the Council states are unanimous in supporting the Kuwaiti measures.

He affirmed that the GCC states want coexistence in the Gulf region on the basis of good neighbourliness, common history, heritage, religion and joint interests. He pointed out that security and stability in this sensitive area do not concern the region's states alone but the world at large.

The main concern of the GCC states is the ending of the Iraq-Iran war and these states are aware that without ending the war, they cannot live in stability, he said. "On this basis, we inform the world's countries and are knocking on every door to press the urgency of ending the war," he said.

On defence cooperation among the GCC states, Bisharah said that big strides had been made in this domain. GCC defence ministers will meet after three months to review what had been implemented so far he said, adding that their conclusions will be forwarded to the forthcoming GCC summit in Riyadh.

Regarding chalking out a comprehensive economic agreement between the GCC states and the European group, he pointed out that the joint economic and trade interests between the two sides are in need of coordination. "The economic relations between the two sides should be arranged within an economic framework, he added. [no closing quotation marks received]

He said any agreement between the GCC and the EEC must include four factors.

The first will represent oil and its alternatives within the framework of the GCC states' regional and international commitments. The second will allow for transfer of technology to GCC states, through joint industries using Gulf and European capitals.

The third area concerns GCC investments in Europe and the need for guarantees. "We will also urge European investment in our region," Bisharah pointed out. The fourth, trade, clause of any forthcoming agreement between the two markets will include petrochemicals.

The EEC has imposed tariffs on petrochemical imports from the Gulf which exceed a common market ceiling.

Asked what benefit nationals are getting from the unified GCC economic agreement, the GCC secretary general said the Council's general secretariat wants free movement of Gulf nationals in any country of the GCC and unhindered pratice of all commercial and economic rights. Much has already been accomplished in this area, he pointed out.

Bisharah wished to see a daily newspaper called "*The Co-operation Council*" published in future but he said the time is not suitable now. He called on specialized media to cope with the development in GCC states and become a unified Gulf information body. He asked them to think regionally, not nationally.

Turning to cultural relations among the GCC states Bisharah said the Gulf ministers of culture agreed during a meeting in Muscat, Oman, last September, on a strategy aimed at cultural co-operation. They adopted a working paper which they hope will be presented at the forthcoming Riyadh summit for approval

BAHRAIN

Foreign Minister Cited on Gulf War, Reflagging

JN200856 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0650 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Manama, 20 Jul (WAKH) — Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah has warned against the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. He said the situation has intensified, threatening regional security and stability. In a statement published by the *Gulf Daily News* today, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah said the current political atmosphere is tense and the situation is becoming complicated.

The Bahraini minister called for ending the Iraq-Iran war before its destructive consequences reach the entire region. He said: The war should end on the basis of a peaceful settlement, not through the occupation of the other party's territory. He said Bahrain and the GCC states have worked actively to make the United Nations issue a resolution to end the war, provided that the resolution was practical and moral. He added: We must be patient because the United Nations is the primary institution in the world that has the power to settle international conflict.

Regarding flying the U.S. flag on Kuwaiti tankers and their escort by U.S. warships, Shaykh Muhammad said: The plan must not be considered a direct confrontation with Iran, as some experts in the Middle East have noted. He said Bahrain supported the U.S. step because it is the best alternative. Kuwait only wants to guarantee the flow of its oil abroad, the Bahraini minister said.

The foreign minister noted that Bahrain will continue to assist any ship that comes under attack in the area. He affirmed that Bahrain is convinced that it will not be dragged into the Gulf war by providing help to stricken ships — whether they are American or not.

Shaykh Muhammad announced that the Arab League intends to convene a conference on the Middle East at the end of the year to discuss regional issues, including the Iraq-Iran war. He said: We are interested in convening such a conference in light of the area's developments.

KUWAIT

Minister Applauds UN Resolution on Gulf War

LD211250 Kuwait KUNA in English 1204 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, July 21 (KUNA) — Kuwait Tuesday applauded the last night Security Council resolution ordering Iran and Iraq to stop their war and hoped the belligerents would comply.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told KUNA the resolution underscored the world community's love and search for peace and stability. Shaykh Sabah said he was particularly pleased because the mandatory resolution was unanimously endorsed.

He reiterated Kuwait's appeals to Iran and Iraq to heed international peace calls, halt the conflict and live together as good neighbors.

The latest such Kuwaiti call was made Monday by His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah during a meeting with regional, Arab and international reporters.

Stressing the merits of the Security Council resolution, Shaykh al-Sabah said "our happiness would be greater if both Iran and Iraq announced they would comply with the world body's resolution." "This," he said, "would definitely safeguard the interests of the two neighboring Muslim countries and those of the region and the whole world."

Iraqi Minister Delivers Husayn Message to Amir

LD221023 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Jul — The amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, today received Iraqi Interior Minister Sa'dun Shakir, who delivered a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Nothing has been revealed about the contents of the message conveyed by Shakir, who unexpectedly arrived here earlier today.

PDRY

Unity Delegation Leaves for Sanaa 20 Jul

EA201806 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit, member of the YSP Central Committee and PDRY minister of state for Yemeni unity affairs, left for Sanaa this morning. In a statement to ANA shortly before his departure, Brother Rahid said his visit to the northern part of the homeland was to coordinate and prepare for the summit meeting which is scheduled to be held soon between Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

He added that during the visit discussions and preparations would be finalized to draw up an advanced formula [sighah mutatawwirah] for unification in the two parts of Yemen within the framework of the draft party constitution and previous unification efforts.

He said that joint efforts would concentrate on the joint economic [as heard] projects in the two parts — in the economic, cultural, and educational areas in particular. He stressed that such meetings would have positive results to satisfy the popular ambition for the creation of stability and prosperity in all parts of the Yemeni homeland.

He is accompanied on his visit by Dr Salih Muhsin, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and director of the secretary general's office; Muhsin 'Ali Yasir, deputy minister of state for unity affairs; and other officials.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Sharjah Ruler Decrees Government Reorganization

JN210830 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2030 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 20 Jul (WAKH) — Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the UAE Supreme Council and ruler of Sharjah, today issued Law No 8 for 1987 on the reorganization of the government apparatus in the Amirate of Sharjah. Following is the text of the decree:

We, Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, ruler of the Amirate of Sharjah, in accordance with the demands of the public interest, decree the following:

Article 1

The government apparatus in the Amirate of Sharjah shall be reorganized in accordance with the provisions of this law.

Article 2

An Executive Council shall be formed in the Amirate. It will comprise the heads of local government departments and a number of other individuals selected by the ruler from among citizens known for their ability, experience, and integrity.

Article 3

The Executive Council shall have a secretariat that will prepare for the Council's meetings and agenda, and will receive from the local departments or members the topics to be discussed by the Council.

Article 4

The ruler will ask the Executive Council to meet and will approve its agenda, chair its meetings, run its discussions, and follow up

its activities. In his absence, the prerogatives of the ruler are exercised by the heir apparent and ruler's deputy.

Article 5

The Executive Council shall assist the ruler in running the Amirate's public affairs and in discharging his duties and exercising his powers.

Under the ruler's supervision, the Executive Council shall specifically carry out the following tasks:

1. Draw up the Amirate's general policy and follow up its implementation.

2. Discuss bills, draft decrees, and submit them to the ruler for ratification and issuance.

3. Discuss the draft annual budget, the final account, and the Amirate's development plan.

4. Supervise the implementation and enforcement of the laws, decrees, and regulations.

5. Coordinate work between the departments and local government on the one hand, and the federal institutions on the other, in a manner that serves the public interest.

6. Monitor the performance of the apparatus of the local government departments.

7. Give its opinion on the organizational agreements which the Amirate intends to conclude with oil companies.

8. Any other jurisdiction with which it is empowered by the ruler or by any law or decree.

Article 6

The Executive Council will meet once every 2 weeks. It can be called to meet at any time at the ruler's request or whenever necessary.

Article 7

Government departments in the Amirate will be as follows:

1. The Amiri Court.
2. The Department of Financial and Administrative Affairs.
3. The Department of Petroleum and Minerals.
4. The Department of Municipalities.
5. The Department of Culture and Information.
6. The Department of Islamic Affairs and Awqaf.
7. The Department of Ports and Customs.
8. The Department of Electricity and Water.
9. The Department of Civil Aviation.

On the recommendation of the Executive Council the ruler can establish any other department, and abolish or merge any existing departments, depending on the prevailing exigencies.

Article 8

One or more department heads may be appointed if the department's volume of work and division so require. The department director and head are appointed and dismissed, and their resignation is accepted by a decree from the ruler on the recommendation of the Executive Council.

Article 9

Members of the Executive Council shall, in the rulers presence and before assuming their post, take the following oath:

I swear by Almighty God to be loyal to the country and ruler, to respect its laws, to carry out my duties honestly and truthfully, to faithfully watch over the interests of the people, and to fully safeguard the country's existence, security, independence, and resources. May God be my witness.

Article 10

The head of department shall have the following powers within his department:

1. Drafting the department's general policy and supervising its implementation after it has been approved by the Executive Council.

2. Supervising the progress of work in the department in accordance with the laws, regulations, and resolutions organizing this work, and issuing the necessary instructions to implement them.

3. Spending the department's budget within the limits allocated in accordance with the laws, regulations, and resolutions.

4. Proposing the required drafts and regulations pertaining to his department.

Article 11

The heads of department are responsible to the ruler for performing their duties and excercising their powers.

Article 12

The director of the department shall assist the head of the department in running and reorganizing the department's affairs, implementing its policy, and organizing and coordinating work among the department's sections and directorates. He shall also be responsible for his action before the head of the department.

Article 13

The ruler shall have the authority to entrust the director of the department with carrying out the work of the department, or its director shall also have the authority to delegate some of his powers to one of the senior officials at the department to serve the progress of work as well as possible.

Article 14

Within 3 months of the issuance of this law, the head of department shall present his department's draft regulations to the Executive Council, including the department's administrative structure, sections, competence, and nature of their work. The ruler shall also issue a decree on the department's regulations after the Executive Council has approved them.

Article 15

The current departments which have not been named in Article 7 of this law shall be distributed to other departments in accordance with the ruler's decision.

Article 16

With the ruler's approval, the Executive Council shall set all the regulations of its work.

Article 17

All laws and protocols conflicting with the provisions of this law shall be canceled, and this law shall be implemented on the day of its issuance.

Issued on 24 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1407 Hegira, corresponding to 20 July 1987.

[Signed] Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, ruler of the Amirate of Sharjah — Al-Shariqah.

His Highness Shaykh Dr Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the UAE Supreme Council and ruler of Sharjah, today also issued Amiri Decree No 12 for 1987 naming the Executive Council members in the Amirate of Sharjah. Following is the text of the decree.

We, Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, ruler of the Amirate of Sharjah, after acknowledging Law No 8 for 1987 on the reorganization of the government apparatus in the Amirate of Sharjah, decree the following:

The following shall be appointed members of the Amirate's Executive Council:

1. His Highness Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, heir apparent and deputy ruler — deputy chairman of the Council.

2. His Highness Saqr ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi — member.

3. Shaykh Sa'ud ibn Sultan al-Qasimi, head of the Administrative and Financial Department — member.

4. Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sultan al-Qasimi, head of the Oil and Minerals Department — member.

5. Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, head of the Municipalities Department — member.

6. Shaykh Hamad ibn Majid al-Qasimi — member.

7. Shaykh Faysal ibn Khalid ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, director of the ruler's office — member.

8. Shaykh Faysal ibn Khalid ibn Sultan al-Qasimi, chief of the Amiri Court — member.

9. Shaykh Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Sultan al-Qasimi, head of the Culture and Information Department — member.

10. Shaykh Salim ibn Muhammad ibn Sultan al-Qasimi, head of Islamic Affairs and Awqaf — member.

11. Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Muhammad Al Thani, head of the Civil Aviation Department — member.

12. Shaykh Muhammad ibn Salim ibn Sultan al-Qasimi, head of the Ports and Customs Department — member.

13. Dr 'Abdallah ibn 'Umran Taryam — member.

14. Khalfan ibn Muhammad al-Rumi — member.

15. Hamid ibn Nasir al-'Uways — member.

16. 'Ali ibn 'Abdallah al-Nawman, director general of the Electricity and Water Department — member.

17. 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Ali al-Jarwan — member.

18. Muhammad ibn Hamad al-Shamisi — member.

19. 'Abdallah ibn Jum'ah al-Sari — member.

20. Salim ibn 'Ali al-Mazru' — member.

21. Ahmad ibn Muhammad al-Midfa' — member.

This decree shall be effective as of the date of its issuance.

Issued on 24 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1407 Hegira, corresponding to 20 July 1987.

[Signed] Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, ruler of the Amirate of Sharjah.

Minister on 'Full Support' for UN Resolution

JN211443 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] New York — Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, has reiterated the UAE's full support for the new UN Security Council resolution which calls for bringing about a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran.

At the UN Security Council session held last night, the minister said: The UAE's support for this resolution reflects a natural development of its constant policy toward the Iraq-Iran war. Rashid 'Abdallah urged the international community to help

Iraq and Iran in their reconstruction efforts and said: The UAE, as one of the region's states, is following with concern the continuous destruction brought upon the region as well as the continuous threats posed by the war to regional security, to peaceful coexistence among its peoples, and, consequently, to world peace.

He emphasized the UAE has directly sought to exert strenuous efforts to create a suitable climate for reaching a just settlement of the conflict, and that it also contributed to efforts which resulted in adopting UN Security Council Resolution 582 issued in 1986 and has continued to support this resolution. He added: The UAE has also contributed to all deliberations which resulted in adopting the new resolution. The minister said the UAE's support for this resolution is natural, because the UAE realizes the destructive dimensions of this war. He also affirmed the UAE's support for a peaceful settlement of the conflict, for the principle of the inadmissibility of acquiring territory by force, and for announcing a cease-fire as a basic step for holding negotiations and respecting the freedom of international navigation.

The minister emphasized that the draft resolution is balanced, and that it does not undermine the legitimate rights of either state or their right to a just and comprehensive settlement.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

PDRY Delegation Arrives for Unity Talks 21 Jul

Al-Bid Comments

JN211355 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress, and his brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, held a closed meeting in the southern part of the homeland at 1230 today.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid arrived in Sanaa, the historic capital of united Yemen, at 1100 today at the head of a high-level delegation. President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and state officials from the northern part of the homeland welcomed him.

In a statement to SABA, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said: We are glad to arrive in the other part of our homeland, in Sanaa, the historic capital of Yemen, the capital of the expected united state. A united state is the most important objective in meeting with Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and the brother officials in the northern part of the homeland, and in discussing the various issues of interest to our Yemeni people and homeland.

Al-Bid added: This meeting is within the framework of the joint unity efforts of the leaders of the two parts of the homeland, which have brought about many agreements in various spheres to enhance what has been already attained. They formulate a comprehensive concept of action for unity, and map out the activities of the two countries' leaders with respect to reuniting the homeland — both the people and land — on the basis of the principles of the 26 September and 14 October revolutions. Al-Bid continued: We hope that many tangible steps will be taken during this visit to further enhance unity action — particularly in promoting joint ventures, facilitating citizens' freedom of movement between the two parts of the homeland, and all matters that will help create a propitious atmosphere to enhance the basis of unity.

Concluding, Al-Bid said: We firmly believe that the reunification of the Yemeni homeland and people expresses our people's desire and is also our fate and future. We believe that development, prosperity, peace, security, and stability can only be achieved through unity, not only for the Yemeni homeland but all our brothers. Yemeni unity will be for the good of Yemen.

This visit is taking place to start the process that will lead to the day when the united state will be proclaimed in accordance with a timetable. It will crown all the joint unity efforts that have been taking place since the independence of the southern part of the homeland, through the sincere national dialogue between the leaders of the two parts of the homeland and through their action to achieve Yemeni unity on peaceful and democratic foundations.

Delegations Begin Talks

EA211848 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, arrived in Sanaa at 1100 today at the head of a delegation of the southern part of the homeland. Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress [GPC] in the northern part of the homeland, led the welcoming party.

An honor guard saluted the brother secretary general and his delegation. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid then shook hands with the senior members of the GPC permanent committee, ministers, and senior officials — both civilian and military.

When the delegation of the southern part of the homeland arrived at Sanaa International Airport, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid delivered a statement in which he expressed his pleasure over his delegation's visit to the historic capital, Sanaa. He pointed out that the objective of the visit is to hold consultations with Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the brother officials in the northern part of the homeland, besides discussing various issues which concern our Yemeni people and homeland.

He stressed that the meeting will be a continuation of the previous unification efforts by the leaders of the two parts of the homeland, which have resulted in numerous agreements in different fields aimed at developing existing achievements. It will draw up comprehensive plans for unification action as well as the parameters of the activities of the two leaders toward achieving reunification of the homeland — both people and territory — on the bases and principles of the immortal 26 September and 14 October revolutions.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid expressed his hope that this meeting will result in practical measures which should give the reunification action a push forward, particularly in connection with the development of joint projects and the facilitating of movement of citizens in the two parts of the homeland. In short, everything that will help create the right conditions to build and develop infrastructures in an assured and joint manner.

The brother secretary general of the YSP Central Committee expressed his deep conviction that the reunification of the Yemeni people and homeland is an expression of our people's will. It is our fate and destiny. Only with unity can we achieve development, security, stability, abundance, prosperity, and peace — not only for the Yemeni homeland, but for all our brothers. He stressed that Yemeni unity can only be for the good of the Yemeni people and our brothers.

After the reception ceremonies, the first round of talks began in the republican palace in Sanaa between the two leaderships.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid is accompanied by Brothers Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee; Sa'id Salih Salim, member of the Political Bureau and minister of state security; Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, candidate member of the Political Bureau and minister of defense; Mutahhar Musid Muslih, member of the Central Committee and deputy interior minister; Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum, candidate member of the Central Committee and minister of culture and information; Dr 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman, candidate member of the Central Committee and minister of industry, trade, and supply; and other officials.

Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit, member of the Central Committee and minister of state for union affairs, accompanied by Dr Salih Muhsin, candidate member of the Central Committee and director of the Secretary General's Office, arrived in Sanaa yesterday to pave the way for this visit.

Communique No 2,752 Details Operations 20-21 Jul

JN211630 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,752 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 July 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious troops affirm through their heroic deeds their absolute hegemony over all areas of operation. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. One of our units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris spotted an enemy formation, fired on its personnel, and annihilated most of them. The remainder escaped. In another area of this same sector, one enemy boat and two infantry positions were destroyed and two ammunition dumps blown up.

2. One of our units in the II Army Corps central sector engaged 20 enemy personnel in battle, killing or wounding several of them and forcing the remainder to flee. In another area of the same sector, two ammunition dumps were detonated and several infantry positions were destroyed.

3. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basra, five ammunition dumps were ignited, enemy engineering work was disrupted, and four RPG-7 grenade launchers and one 60-mm mortar were seized.

4. Four enemy scoundrels were killed, three infantry positions and one vehicle were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was detonated in the I Army Corps northern sector.

5. Two vehicles, one infantry position, one observation post, and one ammunition dump were destroyed and one enemy scoundrel killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. At the VII Army Corps front, two enemy vehicles loaded with personnel and two infantry positions were destroyed. Three ammunition dumps were detonated and one shovel [preceding word in English] was damaged.

7. A number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward units and were evacuated safely to our rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 July 1987

Attack in II Sector Foiled

JN221117 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA) — At 0345 today [2345 GMT on 21 July], the Iraqi Armed Forces foiled an enemy attempt to approach Iraqi positions in the II Army Corps sector, an area guarded by the great Badr Forces. The attack was attempted by an enemy force estimated to be larger than one brigade.

In a statement to INA a short while ago, an Iraqi military spokesman declared that Iraqi forces had destroyed most of the attacking force and captured several enemy personnel, including an officer. The remainder of the attackers fled. The spokesman added that in the battle, which was settled in favor of the Iraqi forces, quantities of equipment and weapons were seized.

UN Security Council Informed of Iranian Shelling

JN211554 Baghdad INA in English 1545 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] United Nations, July 21, INA — Iraq informed the U.N. Security Council today that the Iranian regime is continuing its criminal attacks on purely civilian targets in Iraq.

In a letter addressed to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraqi Ambassador to the U.N. 'Ismat Kittani informs that from July 13 to July 18, the Iranian aggressor shelled residential neighborhoods in the city of Basra and in the towns of Abu al-Khasib and al-Qurnah, both in the province of Basra, which resulted in injuries to eight people, including a child and three women, and damage to civilian property.

President's Envoys Leave for Jordan, Saudi Arabia

JN211836 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1816 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA) — Two envoys of President Saddam Husayn, one to Jordanian King Husayn and one to Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, left for Jordan and Saudi Arabia respectively this evening. The two envoys are Hassan 'Ali, RCC member and minister of trade, who will later visit Sanaa on a similar mission, and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

Syrian Minister's Visit to Tehran Condemned

JN171702 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 Jul 87 p 2

[Sabri Hamadi article: "Persistence in Treason"]

[Text] The Syrian regime's foreign minister began a visit to Tehran last Sunday [12 July]. The declared objective of his trip was to convey a message from Hafiz al-Asad to the Iranian regime's president on the latest developments in the Gulf.

Any observer who follows the Syrian regime's conduct and its blatantly treasonous stand toward Iran's aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation would have no difficulty in perceiving the motives of this suspect visit. He would also have no difficulty in understanding this visit's malicious and conspiratorial objectives. The visit of Al-Shar' to Tehran came at such a critical time. It coincided with an activation of noble international efforts and endeavors to end the war and achieve a peaceful, comprehensive, and just solution to the conflict. The Damascus regime is aware of the Iranian rulers' stand toward these well-intentioned international efforts. This regime also knows very well that these rulers are being pressured by international opinion, which favors peace. Thus, we can state that Al-Shar' traveled to Tehran to advise its rulers. We can also state that he encouraged them to continue the conflict, to oppose international opinion, and to turn deaf ears to all appeals and resolutions calling for an end to the war.

What we can be certain about is that the talks which Al-Shar' held with Musavi and Velayati specifically focused on ways to enable Iran to escalate and expand its hostile war against Iraq and the Arab Gulf states. We can also claim without hesitation that this visit comes at a time when Iran is experiencing extremely difficult circumstances. This fact reflects Syria's unequivocal support for Tehran. The timing of the trip means that Hafiz al-Asad supports Khomeyni's hostile policy and his expansionist drive in the Arab Gulf region. Damascus' claims about the objectives of the visit are worthless and insignificant.

It seems that the Syrian regime cannot easily alter its unpatriotic and anti-Arab course. Apparently it also cannot abandon its exposed ploys, ploys that are based on maneuvering, bargaining, blackmail, and tightrope-walking. Al-Shar' is going to encourage Iran to carry out further armed aggression and acts of piracy against the Arab Gulf states' interests and rights. While he is doing this, the Syrian regime will try to convince these same Arab Gulf states that it is working to ease tension in the Gulf region and to prevent the war's expansion.

The Damascus regime is basing its behavior on the belief that it will gain many political and military advantages from the war's continuation, its escalation, and possible spillover. Syria believes that a continuation of the conflict will enhance "its role" in the region and will bring more Arab funds and more free Iranian oil. The least that can be said about such behavior is that it is anti-Arab, inhuman, and immoral.

One can recall the sound pan-Arab stand adopted by fraternal Mauritania against the Iranian regime some time ago, when it broke diplomatic and economic relations with Iran. One can also recall the decision of both Egypt and Tunisia to sever diplomatic ties with Iran. When these decisions are considered, the Syrian regime's brazen behavior assumes larger proportions, and its disgraceful stand toward Iran's aggression against Iraq and the Arab world's eastern flank becomes fully exposed.

The calamity plaguing Syria's rulers is that they are not working to remedy their nation's deteriorating economic situation. They are not trying to reconsider their stands and reassess their unpatriotic and anti-Arab policies and practices. Instead they pursue their treasonous course and conspiratorial behavior against Iraq, the Arab nation, and its fateful causes to the fullest. Syria's rulers are even persisting in their treason and treachery for a very cheap price, as they receive no more than 1 million barrels of Iranian oil.

We believe that this time Hafiz al-Asad's regime is bound to raise the price it demands. For years Syria has received no more than 1 million barrels of oil annually. Do they not deserve more than 1 million barrels of oil a year at a time when expressing support for Iran's rulers can be done only under extremely difficult circumstances? These circumstances are dictated by the fact that, except for their allies in Damascus and Tel Aviv, the Iranian regime is receiving no other support. Why then does Tehran not pay Hafiz al-Asad's regime for its treason in hard currency instead of in oil, whose price is unpredictable?

USSR's Antipov Could Return With Political Figure

TA211059 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Jul 87 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Yevgeniy Antipov, head of the Soviet consular delegation, will leave for Cyprus this evening to board an Aeroflot flight from Larnaca to Moscow.

It has been learned that Antipov will be gone from Israel for only 2 days. He is going to Moscow to report on events and to hold consultations, at the end of which a decision will probably be made on whether or not he will be joined by another person. Antipov will apparently be joined by second person, a political figure, who will be authorized to conduct talks with Israel beyond the consular affairs the delegation has come to Israel to deal with.

In any event, it has been made clear that Antipov will not be replaced but will return to Israel. The only question is whether he will be joined by another person.

Jerusalem is looking forward to the beginning of a direct dialogue between Israel and the Soviet Union. The Foreign Ministry did not want to establish a link between this dialogue — of which the Russians informed Israel via U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and in a message to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres — and the stay of the low-level consular delegation in Israel. In the wake of Antipov's report, however, Moscow may decide to start a dialogue with Israel through a political figure, who is to be included in the consular delegation.

During Antipov's absence, the consular delegation will be headed by Aleksey Chistyakov from the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near East division. Chistyakov is considered to be the delegation's "political figure" although he does not hold a high-level position.

Three Delegation Members Leave

TA211940 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Three members of the Soviet consular delegation, including its leader, have left Israel for the Soviet Union. The delegation members have explained that they will return to Israel in a few days' time and that they need to hold consultations in Moscow. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that Yevgeniy Antipov, the head of the delegation, and two other members have flown to Cyprus, from where they will proceed to Moscow.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Ambassador's Stands

TA211422 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Jul 87 p A10

[Commentary by Yehoshu'a Bitzur: "The Ambassador's 'Strong Hand'"]

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to Israel Thomas Pickering is not known for his staunch support of Israel. It seems that of all the U.S. ambassadors who have served in Tel Aviv over the last 40 years, he is the most reticent and reserved in his attitude toward us. He evinces no warmth toward the country to which he has been accredited and seems to be seeking ways to force upon us, quite willfully, what appears to be a U.S. interest.

Some of the men who have headed the U.S. Embassy in Israel in the past, such as the late James McDonald, Walworth Barbour, Kenneth Keating, and Sam Lewis -- may he live a long life -- were genuine friends. They worked hard to make us feel that we are sister countries, one big and the other one small; that despite this difference in size, the two countries share the same aspirations. These ambassadors showed effusive love for Israel.

When Thomas Pickering succeeded them 3 years ago, cool winds began to blow from the building on Hayarkon Street. Pickering has made no effort to demonstrate friendship or any token of identification with us. He deals in "business," trying to achieve what he regards as U.S. policy goals and aspirations, all the while emphasizing U.S interests in the Western [as published] world.

Pickering previously served as his country's ambassador in Amman and has held several diplomatic posts in Arab capitals. No doubt he can be numbered among those in what is known as the "Arabist branch" of the State Department. He always flouts a list of demands to us without batting an eye; therefore, it seems to me that he does not shy away from offending our sensibilities and soft spots.

The events of the last few days have highlighted this even more. Senior Foreign Ministry officials, who normally choose their words very carefully, have expressed dismay with Ambassador Pickering's remarks on the issue of visits to Israel by U.S. citizens of Palestinian origin or members of the Black Hebrews sect. The officials pointed out that Pickering had received from the Foreign Ministry full and firm explanations on the necessity, for security reasons, of conducting occasional searches of tourists in these groups to ensure that they do not abuse their stay in Israel.

The numbers are a great cause of concern: Thousands of Palestinians who hold U.S. citizenship and who came here as tourists have somehow managed to remain permanently, and of course illegally. The influx of Black Hebrews trying to join their kin in Dimona and 'Arad likewise continues, thereby exacerbating the social problem created by the Black Hebrews in those towns. They, too, are illegal aliens in this country. It is every country's right to take any step it deems necessary. All in all, a mere 30 of the 20,000 U.S. Palestinians who have come here in the past 12 months have been checked and asked to provide some type of collateral.

All this notwithstanding, the incident has been blown up to assume the proportions of a stormy dispute, rife with threats and even an ultimatum from Washington, which threatened to issue a travel advisory against visiting Israel. Pickering has been charged with orchestrating this artificial affair due to his personal rivalry with Morris Draper, the consul general in Jerusalem, who sees himself as the protector of the inhabitants of the territories and who refuses to acknowledge subordination to the Embassy in Tel Aviv. Our Foreign Ministry's decision to place a senior official at the airport to prevent so-called mishandling of Palestinian tourists is ridiculous. If we can handle 1.5 million tourists in a trustworthy, experienced, and credible fashion, then

we should also be relied upon to treat former Palestinians properly as well in accordance with instructions. The sending of such a senior official points to the Foreign Ministry's panic each time someone in the U.S. Embassy coughs.

Thomas Pickering can see the long lines of Israelis standing in front of the U.S. Embassy building, seeking U.S. visas. He knows full well how many of these requests are denied for a variety of reasons. The United States is the most scrupulous of countries when it comes to issuing visas, while Israel exempts U.S. citizens from obtaining one altogether. So why should they complain that we are checking several dozen tourists whose motives may be suspect?

The U.S. ambassador claims not to interfere in Israel's domestic affairs, and yet he uses the steamroller method when trying to make progress on the issue of an international conference — the subject of a bitter and divisive dispute among the public here. He is similarly applying pressure on the secretary of state to get the U.S. Administration more involved in organizing an international conference. Thus Shultz, who originally shied away from allowing the Soviets back into the arena, has gradually changed his mind.

In public, Pickering has often complained that the Israeli Civilian Administration employs what he regards as a "tou[illegible]" policy in the territories. But does Washington give any thought to the kind of means to be employed in its war against Arab and Iranian terrorism?

When the Pollard espionage affair was first uncovered, the ambassador warned us that it would have a long-term detrimental effect on bilateral relations. Yet he never rushed to the scene of the action to extinguish the fire kindled by the entanglement in the Iran arms deal. Instead he attacked his former "boss," Dr Henry Kissinger, for daring to dismiss the idea of an international conference as a dangerous one. Kissinger stands in Pickering's way and is therefore disqualified from engaging in politics at this time.

I therefore believe that the ambassador would be well advised to let us conduct our affairs as we see fit, without diktats or constant pressure. After all, we are talking about democracies, are we not?

'Third Party' Examining Shamir-Husayn Meeting

TA220918 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jul 87 pp 1, 21

[Report by Shlomo Naqdimon, Smadar Peri, and Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpts] The Egyptian foreign minister's visit to Israel ends today. The primary goal of this visit — to convince Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir of the need for an international peace conference — was not achieved by 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. At the end of their meeting yesterday, Shamir said: "To my regret, I did not succeed in convincing the Egyptian foreign minister, but then he also did not succeed in convincing me." [passage omitted]

Shamir told 'Abd al-Majid that he considers frequent mutual visits by officials from the two countries to be important. 'Abd al-Majid, for his part, affirmed that Egypt wants to maintain the peace, but its advancement depends on the attainment of a comprehensive peace.

In reply to a question on whether Shamir would be invited to Egypt, the Egyptian foreign minister said yesterday: "Why not?" It should be noted, however, that the prime minister was not given an official invitation. Egypt, it has been reported, is waiting for Shamir to take the initiative and to state that he is interested in meeting with President Mubarak "in order to find common ground." It seems that if no change occurs in the prime minister's position on the international conference, he will not be invited to Cairo.

In the meantime, it has been learned that a "third party" is currently examining the possibility of organizing a "get-acquainted meeting" between Husayn and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. This party raised the possibility of examining the convening of such a meeting based on the assessment that Shamir is the "most open" of the Likud leaders. The "third party" believes that a face-to-face meeting with the Jordanian monarch could tone down Shamir's opposition to the international conference.

It should be pointed out that no Likud officials have even participated in any of the secret contacts held so far between King Husayn and Israeli figures. Several weeks ago, the prime minister called on King Husayn to meet with him openly. [passage omitted]

Egypt's 'Abd al-Majid Signals 'Compromise' on PLO

TA220522 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jul 87 pp 1, 9

[Report by Benny Morris and Yehuda Litani]

[Text] "Nobody except the PLO can nominate" the Palestinian representatives to a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation in future peace talks, visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said yesterday.

"The Palestinian (representatives) must be mandated, credible and accepted" and it was not Egypt's "business, or anyone else's business" to determine who these would be. It was up to the PLO, which, "whether you like it or not, represents the Palestinian people."

However, signaling a possible avenue for compromise, 'Abd al-Majid referred to the "seven Palestinians" nominated for such a delegation in 1985 — including *Al-Fajr* editor Hanna Sinyurah and Gaza lawyer Fayiz Abu Rahma — as "eminent names" who had received PLO (as well as Israeli, Egyptian and Jordanian) "approval." He said that recent talks between Jordanian and PLO officials in Amman had made progress and he hoped that the gap between the two could be bridged. He said Egypt was making an effort to get Jordan and the PLO back to the negotiating table.

Speaking yesterday in Tel Aviv to the Editors Committee, 'Abd al-Majid said that "in inviting (Austrian President Kurt) Wald-

heim to Egypt, we never thought of hurting or alienating anyone. It was purely a matter of Egyptian-Austrian relations. I want to consider this matter now closed. We are a sovereign country. We cannot accept (interference) from other countries" in such matters.

'Abd al-Majid was apparently referring to Prime Minister Shamir's public condemnation last week of unnamed "Arab countries" who invited or hosted Waldheim "in order to vent their anti-Israeli feelings." Well-informed sources said yesterday that 'Abd al-Majid last weekend "had almost cancelled" his visit to Israel following Shamir's barely-veiled attack on Egypt.

As to a "mini-international conference," Egypt "cannot understand" why the Soviet Union should be excluded from the peace process. They are a super-power and took part in the 1973 Geneva conference, which led to the Israeli-Egyptian disengagement agreements.

'Abd al-Majid added that Syria was an "important" potential participant in the conference and suggested that Damascus would not take part if the Soviets were excluded.

"We have nothing against direct negotiations," said 'Abd al-Majid, "but (we see) the impracticability of the (proposal in the present circumstances)."

Senior officials in the Prime Minister's Office spent yesterday working on a response to President Mubarak's 2,000-word letter to Shamir, brought on Monday by 'Abd al-Majid. The Mubarak message, "couched in friendly terms," argued the advantages of the international conference "as an avenue to peace," sources in the Prime Minister's Office said. Mubarak expressed Egypt's commitment to "a continuation of the dialogue with Israel."

Shamir's response, which will be transmitted to Cairo in the coming days, is expected to emphasize the "advantages" of direct negotiations, as espoused by the prime minister.

'Abd al-Majid outlined in detail Egypt's view of the conference which conformed in major in its main lines to Foreign Minister Peres's. UN Security Council Resolution 242 must serve as "the most fundamental base" of the negotiations and the peace settlements, he said. He reiterated that Egypt was opposed to a change in the wording of 242 and had told the PLO this clearly.

"Recognition of 242" by the parties — including the Palestinians — is "essential for the (negotiating) process to start." While he did not designate the conference's plenary opening as "ceremonial," 'Abd al-Majid stressed that it must "lead directly to direct (Israel-Arab) negotiations." The five permanent members of the Security Council, he added, must "have nothing to do with negotiations" and "no role in the conduct of the negotiations."

Moreover, the conference will not be able to "impose a solution. Speaking as an Egyptian, I would never accept any imposition from anybody and wouldn't accept a veto" by the great powers. 'Abd al-Majid suggested that the powers would have a role in "convening the conference" and in "mediating" between Israel and the Arab states should these reach deadlock on this or that issue.

Regarding the Palestinians, 'Abd al-Majid said that "Palestinian representation" is the "first" obstacle on the road to the conference. "There is a Palestinian cause that nobody can deny, a Palestinian problem that must be addressed," he said. Egypt, he said, has over the years tried to persuade "our Palestinian brothers" to accept Resolution 242 over endless meetings. They "enjoy discussions," he added.

While again positing an international peace conference as the only viable route to direct Israeli-Arab talks and peace, 'Abd al-Majid, without naming Shamir, bluntly dismissed the two alternatives yesterday proposed to him by the prime minister — renewed autonomy talks or a "mini-international conference." He said that it was better to start the international conference and face a deadlock than continue the present stalemate.

"We have no objection to the Camp David framework, 'Abd al-Majid said, but Jordan was not party to those agreements, so "how can you expect Amman to act in accordance with them?" [quotation marks as published] Moreover, 'Abd al-Majid said, Israel's and Egypt's views on Palestinian autonomy were essentially different, which was the reason for the collapse of the autonomy talks in the first place.

"We have our differences with the PLO leadership," conceded 'Abd al-Majid, "and we are a moderating (influence) on them."

[Tel Aviv *Hatzofe* in Hebrew on 22 July carries a similar report by the *Hatzofe* editor on pages one and two on Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's remarks to newspaper editors yesterday, with the following addition: "'It is very possible that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir could be invited to pay an official visit to Egypt. Why not?' This was Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid's reply to the *Hatzofe* editor's question as to whether a Shamir visit to Cairo is expected soon."]

Arens Discusses 'Abd al-Majid Visit, Likud View

TA211646 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Telephone interview with Minister Without Portfolio Moshe Arens by moderator Mikha Friedman — live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good evening, Minister Arens.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Friedman] Egyptian Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid came here with the goal, which he as much as declared outright, of promoting the idea of an international conference. Have his meetings or the messages he has conveyed changed anything in the Likud's opinion on the matter?

[Arens] First of all, I am happy to have him here and hope that this heralds a certain thaw in the cold peace, as the Egyptians have proclaimed it. The fact that the Egyptian foreign minister or the Egyptian Government supports an international conference is no surprise here; we have seen that quite consistently. Anyone who supports Israel's withdrawal to the 1967 borders and

from East Jerusalem also supports an international conference. This is no coincidence.

[Friedman] Yes, but although the Alignment also supports an international conference, at the same time it does not favor a complete withdrawal to the 1967 borders.

[Arens] Indeed, we do have some questions about that too, but right now we are discussing foreign elements, such as the Egyptians. They want us to return to the 1967 borders and have never concealed this. I presume that they believe an international conference would be the best forum in which to achieve this goal. Here we must guard Israel's interests. Those of us who believe that a withdrawal to the 1967 borders would be disastrous to us, a catastrophe for state security, will obviously never accept a forum that would create the preliminary conditions for such a negative move. Very often I fear, or should I say suspect, that those members of the Alignment who support an international conference either fail to comprehend what this might lead to, or perhaps genuinely want us to withdraw to the 1967 borders and consequently have no fear of a forum that would force us to do that.

[Friedman] But on the other hand, there are the proposals submitted by Prime Minister Shamir, most of which you probably agree with, that were rejected outright by the Egyptian minister and the entire Egyptian Administration.

[Arens] Look, the Egyptians read our newspapers and are fully aware of exactly what is happening here: The Alignment, under Mr Peres, wants an international conference, yet this is unacceptable to the Likud. Therefore, from the Egyptians' point of view — which by stretching it one could call legitimate, even though it constitutes interference in our affairs — they want to create pressure or a momentum of sorts in the direction that Mr Peres is trying to lead us. That is quite understandable.

[Friedman] There has recently been a lot of talk about public support and public leanings. Do you think that this visit and the readiness evinced by the Egyptians to send a minister here could affect public opinion and possibly bring about a shift in favor of a conference?

[Arens] I believe that our public opinion is based first of all on our interests, not those of Egypt, the Soviet Union, or even those of France, Great Britain, and the PRC. Our public takes Israel's interests into consideration, and everyone knows that the results of negotiations with Jordan, whenever they occur, will affect the future of the state and the fate of our children. Nothing is more important than that. I therefore believe that the majority of the public wants the opening conditions, or the forum in which these matters will be discussed, to be the best we can possibly obtain. An international conference is the worst possible idea for us because it promises the worst opening conditions we could envision.

Poll Shows Large Parties Gaining Strength

TA1171059 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Jul 87 p 1

[Dahaf Institute poll conducted by Dr Mina Tzemah]

[Text] The Alignment and the Likud are each getting stronger, although the gap in favor of the Alignment still remains. The Tehiya, KAKH, and Shinuy are declining. These are the main findings of a public opinion poll conducted on 13 and 14 July.

The rise of the two large parties' at the expense of the smaller parties is a novelty compared with previous polls conducted over the last 12 months.

Another finding points to the public's inclination "to punish" parties that want to bring about early elections.

And yet another amazing finding: Finance Minister Moshe Nisim turns out to be the most popular senior minister in July, outstripping all other ministers.

The poll surveyed 666 interviewees who were questioned individually and picked out as a representative cross section.

Question: If elections were held today, whom would you vote for? (Results in Knesset seats; June poll results in parentheses):

Alignment — 47 (44)
Likud — 40 (37)
MAPAM — 2 (2)
Tehiya — 5 (8)
Shinuy — 2 (4)
Agudat Yisra'el — 2 (2)
Citizens Rights Movement — 5 (5)
SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] — 4 (4)
HADASH — 4 (4)
National Religious Party — 6 (5)
Progressive List for Peace — 2 (2)
KAKH — 1 (3)

The following complementary question was posed: How would you react if the Alignment or the Tehiya bring about early elections? From the responses, the following picture emerged: In the first case, the Alignment would lose two seats to the Likud; in the second case, the Tehiya would have lost one seat to the Likud.

Question: How would you rate the following ministers according to how well they function? (answers in percentages)

	well	not well
Shamir	63	35
Peres	63	36
Rabin	62	36
Nisim	67	30

IAI Presents Details of Cut in Lavi Expences

TA190843 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jul 87 p A3

[Report by Shraga Meckel and Dan Arkin]

[Excerpt] The plan submitted to the prime minister by the heads of Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] on reducing costs to continue the Lavi project fulfills only half the cut necessary. Nevertheless, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is continuing to seek a way to enable the Lavi to continue.

IAI Director General Moshe Qeret presented the prime minister with a plan to cut IAI costs by $90 million annually; however, Shamir's plans, which also include the implementation of additional projects from the IDF alternatives, require a cut in IAI costs of $200 million annually.

The reduced plan submitted to Shamir by Qeret includes the following: the dismissal of 900 IAI employees, mostly temporary workers; an 8 to 10 percent cut in salaries; a 10-percent reduction in test flights; and a reduction of expenses for "continued development" from $50 million to $40 million annually.

Some parts of the plan have been sharply criticized by senior government elements who consider them "an insult to one's intelligence." For example, the plan includes transferring expenses which have so far been listed in the development stage of the Lavi to the production stage, thus creating a "saving." The IAI director general told the prime minister that he has come up against difficulties with the workers committee regarding the implementation of those components of his plan that deal with salaries and dismissals.

According to the IAI plan, continuing the Lavi project until 1995 will cost $400 to $450 million annually, $250 million of which comes from U.S. aid which can be converted into shekels.

A great deal of uncertainty about the fate of the Lavi currently prevails. The prime minister is continuing to seek ways to pursue the project in spite of the Treasury's opposition. The Cabinet will not continue discussing the fate of the Lavi in today's session, as Yitzhaq Shamir has requested more time to examine the possibilities of saving the Lavi. A time has not yet been set for the continuation of the Cabinet debate on this issue. [passage omitted]

Intermediate Ballistic Missile Reportedly Tested

AU211809 Paris AFP in English 1803 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Geneva, July 21 (AFP) — Israel has successfully tested a new intermediate range ballistic missile designed to carry nuclear warheads, *Revue Internationale de Defense* monthly reported here Tuesday.

The magazine said the intermediate missile together with its longer range version could reach the capitals of all Israel's potential enemeies.

The intermediate range missile, which was tested in May, landed in the Mediterranean Sea south of Crete after a flight of 820 kilometers (510 miles), but is said to have a maximum range of 1,450 kilometers (901 miles), the magazine said.

It was first detected by U.S. intelligence and is a new version of a missile known in the west as Jericho. This version reached 465 kilometers (289 miles).

According to unnamed U.S. officials, the maximum range of 1,450 kilometers, and not 1,100 kilometers (684 miles) as initially thought, should be reached shortly, the magazine said.

"Our informants think the result of the latest test is very important, because it shows the Israelis are capable of launching nuclear warheads to all capitals of their potential enemies, including Baghdad," the magazine reported.

The tested intermediate range missile can reach Beirut, Damascus, Amman and Cairo. Teheran, Tbilisi, the capital of Soviet Georgia, Bucharest, Manama, Riyadh and Benghazi could be targets of its longer range version.

The magazine, edited by the Geneva group Interavia SA, is sold in French, English, Spanish and German versions in 143 countries. Publishers say military experts appreciate its accurate information.

Treasury Working on Plan to Lower Inflation Rate

TA210801 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Jul 87 p 1

[Report by finance correspondent Pinhas Landau]

[Text] The Treasury is working on a new and wideranging economic plan, designed to bring the rate of inflation down to an annual level of 5 per cent.

Work is currently under way to draw up a picture of the economic conditions likely to pertain in 1988, and this will serve as a background to the detailed proposals to be laid before the government later this year.

According to Treasury Director-General 'Imanu'el Sharon, who outlined these plans at a press briefing yesterday, the current inflation rate of 15-20 per cent is untenable. It will either rise or fall from this level, and economic policy must aim to reduce Israel's inflation rate to the 5 per cent level of our major trading partners, he said.

Unless this is done, the policy of keeping the exchange rate fixed would also break down. The exchange rate cannot remain fixed in the long term in the face of huge gaps between the rates of inflation at home and abroad, because Israeli exporters would lose their competitive position in world markets, he explained.

The cost-of-living allowance and the system under which it was paid were, according to the Treasury boss, suited to the old days of high inflation, but needed to be remoulded to the new reality of relatively low inflation. This remark brought a sharp response from the Histadrut. Hayim Haberfeld, the Labour Federation's

trade union department head, said the Treasury had no authority to change the current agreement.

Sharon dwelt at some length on the price-control regime. He noted that the Brazilian anti-inflation programme had broken down because it overly relied on the use of controls to repress price rises. However, in Israel the controls had never been a central feature of the plan. While they could help calm inflationary expectations they could not, per se, reduce pressures on prices.

Sharon said that the gradual relaxation of controls would continue, but that they would be maintained on goods produced by local monopolies or cartels. Regarding subsidies, the Treasury's aim in 1988 was to reduce the amount of subsidy in each subsidized good rather than the total number of goods being subsidized.

The director-general's conclusion was that the aim of 5 per cent annual inflation was attainable, given the right policy mix, and without damaging the balance of payments. To achieve sound economic growth, he said, would require several years of stability, and the expectation of several more.

He added that the size of Israel's defence complex was a serious constraint to the development of the economy. In this connection he noted that if the Lavi could be completely financed by the Defence Ministry's budget, it would be only a military problem, and not an economic one.

Lebanese Army Reinforces Lahd Forces in Jazzin
TA211008 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Jul 87 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] General Antoine Lahd's forces in the Jazzin area have recently been reinforced by some 180 Lebanese Army soldiers who have arrived in the area from northern Lebanon in accordance with an agreement reached between Gen Lahd and the Lebanese chief of staff.

As it may be recalled, over a month ago Hizballah attempted to launch a big attack on Lahd's positions in the Jazzin area, but the attack was repelled. There are some 500 troops currently stationed in the area, 280 of whom are fully controlled by Lahd and financed by the State of Israel. It is assessed in southern Lebanon that following the defeats suffered by Hizballah in its attempt to attack South Lebanese Army positions in the security zone, this area will now become the organization's main target.

Hizballah Rejects Amal Coordination Offer
TA211105 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Report from the north by Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] Amal leaders had wanted to coordinate individual and group actions against the South Lebanese Army and the IDF in southern Lebanon, but Hizballah leaders turned this down when they arrived in Tyre from the Al-Biqa' area to meet with Amal fighters. However, they did reach agreement on one issue: The two organizations have announced that they regard UNIFIL as a legitimate force stationed in southern Lebanon. Despite this statement, Hizballah members have attacked a Nepalese contingent position in southern Lebanon.

Al-Masri Welcomes UN Resolution on Gulf War

JN211938 Amman Television Service in English
1900 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Here in Amman, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said in an answer to a question by *Reuters* that Jordan welcomes the UN Security Council resolution demanding an end to the Iraq-Iran war. Mr al-Masri urged the international community to be ready to enforce the UN resolution. He said that the resolution was significant because of its mandatory nature and because it was passed unanimously with the full cooperation of the five permanent members of the Security Council. The foreign minister said that the resolution would be more effective than previous ones because many powers have realized that Iran is blackmailing the world and that the continuation of the war is becoming absurd and destructive.

Prince 'Abdallah Receives Iraqi Envoy, Message

JN211928 Amman Television Service in English
1900 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah, the regent, received at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening the Iraqi minister of commerce and member of the RCC, Mr Hasan 'Ali, [who] conveyed to his royal highness a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to his majesty the king on the Iraq-Iran war and the UN Security Council resolution on ending it. The meeting was attended by the prime minister, Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i; the chief of the Royal Court, Mr Marwan al-Qasim; the Court minister, Mr 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Prime Minister Al-Rifa'i Returns From UK

JN201807 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister and defense minister, today returned to Amman from the United Kingdom, where he attended the grand military celebration under the sponsorship of His Majesty King Husayn, in the Fairfield area west of London, as part of the activities of the international air show.

The royal falcons team participated in the show.

The deputy prime minister and a number of ministers received him at Queen Alia International Airport.

Sudanese Officials Depart Amman After Talks

JN211537 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1435 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Amman, 21 Jul (PETRA) — Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, Sudanese minister of state for defense affairs, and 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, chairman of the Sudanese Constituent Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, left Amman today following a 4-day visit to Jordan during which they held talks with a number of senior officials.

They were seen off at Alia International Airport by Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani, the assistant chief of staff for manpower affairs, and the Sudanese ambassador in Amman.

Hizballah Leader Declares 'Jihad' Against UN

NC211428 Paris AFP in English 1413 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Ba'labakk, Lebanon, July 21 (AFP) — The pro-Iranian Hizballah movement Tuesday declared a "holy war" against the United Nations in the wake of the Security Council's unanimous vote on a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

"Today is the first day of our battle against the one who makes believe he is neutral (the U.N.) and who pretends not to be implicated in the (Iran-Iraq) war," Shaykh Subhi Tufayli, one of the main leaders of the Shi'ite fundamentalist movement, told a gathering of 20,000 followers in this Al-Biqa' valley city.

"Today the Jihad (holy war) begins. This is the day for the defense of Islam and the Koran," Shaykh Tufayli said.

He added: "Accepting the Security Council resolution means striking against Islam."

The 15 members of the Security Council, including the five permanent members — France, Britain, China, the Soviet Union and the United States — adopted Monday a resolution for an "immediate" ceasefire between Iran and Iraq.

The resolution stressed that military actions between the two warring neighbors must be discotinued on land, at sea and in the air.

The United Nations has between 5,000 a[illegible]6,000 peacekeeping troops serving in the U.N. Interim Force [illegible]outhern Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Syria Reportedly Warns Islamic Jihad on Hostages

JN220746 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0650 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Jul (WAKH) — During the past 48 hours, the Syrian authorities issued a sharply worded warning to the Islamic Jihad Organization. In its warning Syria says it will not stand idle if the organization executes the two French hostages Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine.

The Abu Dhabi newspaper *Al-Ittihad* today quoted a Lebanese political source close to Damascus as saying the Syrian warning was also addressed to all organizations detaining foreign hostages in Lebanon, pointing out that Damascus has also warned those organizations against jeopardizing the hostages' lives.

Alleged Algerian Mediation

NC221230 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 20 Jul 87 p 10

[Text] An Algerian military official named Lakhal Ayat came to Beirut some time ago and negotiated with the kidnappers of the French hostages in return for French harrassment of the Algerian opposition. The first French measures in that respect were the closure of *Al-Badil* magazine and the attempt to deport 13 members of the Movement for Democracy, led by Ahmad Ben Bella, to Algeria.

AL-SHIRA' Says Germans 'To Be Released Soon'

NC221223 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 20 Jul 87 p 7

[Unattributed report: "The Two German Hostages To Be Released Soon"]

[Text] Informed sources have confirmed that the release of the two German hostages has become certain and that the coming few days will see a happy ending and success for the West German Government's efforts to tackle the issue of the two hostages. The sources do not exclude the possibility that this might be a step toward solving the issue of hostages, in general, particularly as regional and international efforts have been exerted in past weeks and have achieved tangible progress in this regard.

Unification, Liberation Front Established 22 Jul

NC221239 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Excerpts] The most important event today was the birth of the Unification and Liberation Front [Jabhat al-Tawhid wa al-Tahrir] during a general national conference, at which the front's political statement was read by Engineer 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Ba'th Party organization. [passage omitted]

Foremost among those attending the conference were Ministers Birri and Walid Junblatt; Eng Qansuh; Engineer Mustafa Sa'd, secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization; George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party; 'Ali 'Id, secretary general of the Arab Democratic Party; and press doyen Muhammad al-Ba'labakki.

The front's political statement covers 22 foolscap pages. It focuses on the crime of the assassination of Prime Minister Rashid Karami, regarding it as an Israeli response to the general Arab line, represented by Syria in alliance with nationalist and progressive personalities, and the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. The statement terms the assassination of Prime Minister Karami the assasssination of the last chance for a solution and a declaration of war on Lebanese unity. The statement notes that the head of the regime does not want to rescue what remains of the symbols of Lebanon's unity.

The statement lauds the Syrian Arab initiative and reviews events in the Islamic nationalist arena, affirming the need to adopt a unified political program and call for the adoption of practical measures to achieve the following, basic aims: unification of nationalist areas, molding them in an impregnable political framework; resistance of Israeli occupation and its agents on all fronts; regulation of Lebanese-Palestinian relations on sound foundations; rejection of a return to pre-1982 conditions; denunciation of the deviationist line of the present leaders of the PLO; rejection of settlement [of Palestinians in Lebanon]; affirmation of the 1985 Damascus agreement; and overthrow of the sectarian system and establishment of democratic institutions.

Eng Qansuh announced the front's program, which deals with

the following points:

1. Fortifying the nationalist arena;

2. Liberating the land;

3. Uniting Lebanon;

4. On Lebanon's identity and its Arab commitments: Affirming the special relationship with Syria and the relationship of struggle beside the Palestinian people;

5. On political reform: Abolishing the sectarian system, implementing the principle of equal opportunities, promulgating a new, nonsectarian election law, reforming the state's institutions and purging its departments, and promulgating a new nationality law;

6. Implementing economic, social, and administrative reform;

7. Instituting a policy of military defense which calls for rebuilding the Army in a way consistent with its nationalist task and for coordination between the Lebanese and Syrian Armies;

8. Pursuing a foreign policy which emphasizes nationalist and nonaligned goals;

9. Organizational structure: The front will be led by a higher political leadership composed of leading officials of the forces participating in the front. This leadership will constitute the front's greater authority. The authority will have branches in all governorates, a secretariat, and an administrative secretary. A joint operations room for resistance of Israel will be established, in which all the forces constituting the front will participate, without exception.

American Injured in Amal-Palestinian Fighting
NC211503 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Amal and Palestinian gunmen are currently trading bursts of sniper fire along the lines east of Sidon. (Barbara Desine), a U.S. citizen, was wounded in the shooting near the Anglican church on 'Ayn al-Hulwah road.

Birri Reportedly Bars Palestinians Moving From Tyre
NC211731 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] The coastal road between Sidon and Tyre remains closed as a result of sniper fire, despite the security measures that have been taken by the Nasirite Popular Organization police.

The Amal Movement has asked its members to prevent fighting on this road under any circumstances. It has been learned from Amal Movement sources that Minister Birri has been in touch with the Amal commanders in the south and asked them to set up checkpoints between the Litani River and Tyre to prevent Palestinians from attempting to move from the Tyre camps to Sidon. This is in response to reports that certain Palestinian commanders sent coded messages to Palestinian families asking them to go to Sidon to step up the information campaign concerning the incidents in the south.

The unified Palestinian command in Tyre has appealed to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to intervene and protect the Palestinians from the practices of the Amal Movement. The command also called for the formation of an investigation committee composed of Syrian observers and representatives of Sidon's ulemas and leftist parties.

Al-Kasm on Failure of Western 'Campaigns'

JN211409 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Damascus — Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm met last night with the students of 'Abbas ibn Firnas Collective Military Training Center. [passage omitted]

After referring to Syria's achievements in all fields, Al-Kasm talked about the past year. He said: It was a short period of time, but it was full of achievements and steadfastness against challenges. Last year, Britain, the United States, and the Western countries supporting them launched campaigns against us. These states were determined to either subjugate Syria or defeat its revolution. Never before in history had so many powers stood against a small country like Syria. But Syria is great — through its mission, its people, and its leader. These countries thought they could achieve their goal through a political and economic siege. However, they failed and had to retreat. They accused Syria of terrorism, while they are masters and makers of terrorism. Today they went back on their accusation.

Al-Kasm added: You will remember they decided to stop high-level visits to Syria. They stopped financial and trade dealings with us. There were agreements under which we paid money to import corn, rice, butter, margarine, and the like. The food was loaded on ships, but orders were issued to them not to proceed to Syria. This is unprecedented in international relations. It was a political, economic, and psychological war against us. We had a very tough time. However, through our people's determination to remain steadfast and the leader's determination to confront the challange, we managed to make available all the citizens' needs from day to day, week to week, and month to month.

We were in a terrific struggle. They thought that by starving the people they could make them abandon their dignity, roles, and national honor. But they forgot the Syrian people are not ordinary people. They forgot Syria has a great leader — Hafiz al-Asad. Because they forgot or pretended to forget that, they were badly defeated. As you heard, they also abandoned all their decisions after their campaign and their political, information, food, and economic siege and military threat failed. International terrorism against Syria failed. Syria triumphed and emerged from the crisis with new experience and new power. With God's help, the day when we will not need to import anything from them is not far away. Syria has become very strong and powerful. The coming days will bring happiness and prosperity to all sons of this great people.

Al-Kasm added: These countries raise their voices now to say there is no solution to the Middle East question without Syria. They are also talking about an international conference for peace. Yes, we are for an international conference on peace, but we should know what kind of peace they want. Is it our concept or their concept of peace? When they agree on our concept for peace, we will be in favor of this international conference. We will meet and decide on Palestinian Arab rights in Palestine and Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. They must know that as long as there is occupied Arab territory there will be no peace. In fact, we will fight to regain our territory and the Palestinian Arab people's national rights. As for the capitulationists who understand peace in the Israeli, U.S., or British way, they can go to their masters. We will have nothing then but struggle, confrontation, and continuous steadfastness. The martyrs' blood which has been shed for dozens of years will not be in vain. [passage omitted]

Al-Kasm continued: The battle between Syria and its enemies is very long. We will struggle as our fathers before us — hence, the great slogan raised by our struggler President Hafiz al-Asad calling for strategic parity with the Zionist enemy. Strategic parity does not mean a tank for a tank or a rifle for a rifle. Parity lies in the general power possessed by the people in all fields of life — production, economy, culture, science, innovation, civilization, and scientific research — in times of war and peace. Here comes your great role, O youth. Here lies the importance of what you believe in, think about, and hope for. Here also lies the importance of what you learn and practice.

Al-Kasm concluded: Despite all that, and amid these political, economic, military, and cultural battles, we need political and eocnomic awareness and the determination to shoulder the burden of the coming phase. We will continue to reinforce the role of the public sector and encourage the private sector in all fields of production. Our many decisions in this respect confirm the constructive role which we want the private sector to play. We support every honest citizen who wants to work and offer something to this homeland. Therefore, the government has followed a very strict line in making people account for their actions. Accountability is not a sudden development, but a firm policy which punishes those who violate rules and stray from the right path. This is the path of the party, the leader, and the Syrian Arab people.

Syrian Cosmonaut Joins Soviet Space Crew

For TASS coverage of the flight of *Soyuz TM-3* manned by Syrian cosmonaut Mohammed Faris and two Soviet cosmonauts, see the Scientific section of the 22 July Soviet Union *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Strike Protesting Miltary Representation Called

Ershad on Strikes, Lawlessness

BK210303 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] President Ershad has said he will introduce a new political system in the country in which there will be no violence, destruction, or conflict. He was addressing the ward chairmen of the municipal corporations in Dhaka yesterday.

The president said people do not want indiscipline, rather stability for the progress and development of the nation. He called for building up resistance against violence and lawlessness. He said people do not want hartals [strikes] which not only bring miseries for them but also hinder the development and progress of the country.

President Ershad said his government never resorted to suppression and oppression [words indistinct] for political purpose. In the past people were killed for political reasons, thousands put behind the bar and lakhs of people perished due to famine.

The president said the anti-people elements did not only suppress and oppress the people, but also killed democracy to establish their rule permanently in the country. They also engaged in despoiling the image of the nation at home and abroad.

Referring to the efforts made by his government in nation-building activities, he said he has been working hard to enhance the image of the nation by achieving self-reliance in every sphere of national life.

Regarding the incidents at Dhaka University last week, President Ershad said some students armed with lethal weapons were killing one another. They will not even spare members of the public when a poor rickshaw puller was killed during the fighting. He said the universities will have to be made free of arms to end the prevailing chaotic conditions. Dhaka University will be opened when academic atmosphere is restored in the campus.

Later in the afternoon, the president visited several parts of the old capital.

Prime Minister Addresses Rally

BK220316 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Excerpt] President Ershad has asked the administrative machinery at all levels to strictly maintain peace and discipline so that current stability is not disturbed. Addressing the secretaries of the government in Dhaka yesterday, he said no one will be allowed to create indiscipline in the society for achieving their selfish aims.

Referring to frequent hartal [strike] calls by some opposition political parties, the president said as a result of these hartals the image of the nation is being tarnished in the outside world. In the greater interest of the nation, we must bring an end to indiscipline and chaos. On its part, the government will do its best to strengthen the administration so that it can play its due role in effectively maintaining peace, stability, and discipline. The administration should also play an important role to increase the resources of the country and keep the development process going, he added.

Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury has urged all patriotic forces of the country to build up a united resistance against the frequent hartal calls by opposition parties.

Addressing a rally at Gulsham in Dhaka yesterday, the prime minister described the opposition hartal program as highly undemocratic. He alleged that by creating law and order situation the opposition parties are only trying to capture power. He regretted that the opposition politics of hartals is aimed at destroying the economy of the country instead of bringing welfare to the people.

Mr Chowdhury said the proposed 54-hour hartal [to begin 22 July] of the opposition would cost a total loss of over 100 crore taka which this poor country could not afford. [passage omitted]

Paramilitary on Red Alert

BK211619 Hong Kong AFP in English
1558 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Dhaka, July 21 (AFP) — President Hussain Mohammad Ershad Tuesday told all government employees Tuesday to ignore a nationwide general strike called by the opposition in a bid to paralyse the government and force the ouster of the president.

Mr. Ershad's call came after reports that police had arrested several top opposition leaders Tuesday during a preemptive security crackdown by the authorities on the eve of the 54-hour nationwide general strike.

Meanwhile, informed sources said that the capital's 11,000-strong police force, backed by thousands of auxiliary police, had been put on standby to protect life and property during the strike. They added that the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles had been put on red alert.

The official BSS news agency said that Mr. Ershad had told senior government officials at a meeting here Tuesday that the government machinery must run smoothly at all levels during the strike. Official sources said that strict directives had been sent to officials in all government offices and corporations to ensure normal staff attendance during the strike.

Earlier Tuesday police said that two leaders of the eight-party opposition Awami League Alliance had been taken into custody. Motia Chowdhury and Amena Ahmed were picked up by police

while campaigning for the nationwide general strike set to begin at dawn Wednesday, police said. Mrs. Chowdhury is a member of the Awami League Central Committee and Mrs. Ahmed is the wife of professor Muzaffar Ahmed, chief of the National Awami Party. Police also arrested Mohiuddin Ahmed and Abdul Razzak, members of the Awami League Alliance, relatives said.

Police did not confirm their arrests. Opposition sources told reporters they feared further arrests prior to the strike and said many senior opposition leaders had gone into hiding.

Meanwhile, newspapers and police have reported mounting clashes in the last few days between government and opposition supporters here and in other cities.

Mr. Ershad and his government have threatened to frustrate the strike and the president said here Monday: "The people will prove this time that they are against strikes, and that they are not with those who call such strikes every now and then to achieve their selfish ends." His warning raised fears that the latest opposition strike call — half-day strikes have become a regular feature of life here in recent months — would lead to violent clashes between supporters of both sides.

Opposition sources said Tuesday that the main office here of Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League had come under bomb and firearm attack late Monday by unknown people travelling in a car. No one was injured in the attack. Sheikh Hasina's Awami League Alliance and the seven-party coalition headed by Begum Khaleda Zia, jointly called the strike.

Police said that two bombs were lobbed at a rally here Monday of the pro-government Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSC) Party. Three people, including a JSD student activist, were injured in the attack, police added.

In the town of Feni, southeast of here, clashes between rival groups Monday marred a rally addressed by Sheikh Hasina, the pro-government *Dainik Bangla* newspaper said. The daily said Sheikh Hasina was forced to cut short her address and return to Dhaka and that two people were injured in the fighting.

Press reports also said that nine students and five policemen were injured Monday when violence broke out between opposition and government supporters at a college in Sirajganj town, north of here.

Other political groups, including the five-party alliance of Nirmal Sen and the Jami'at-i Islami, have supported the strike call, urging people to turn it into a mass movement to bring down Mr. Ershad's five-year-old government.

Provoking the opposition has been the hurried passage by parliament on July 12 of legislation putting military representatives on the country's 64 district councils. Opposition supporters allege that the move is part of a government plan to "militarize" the country's civilian administration.

54-Hour Strike Begins

BK220332 Hong Kong AFP in English
0328 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Dhaka, July 22 (AFP) — A 54-hour general strike organised by the opposition began here at dawn Wednesday with police out in force providing armed escorts for government officials and public buses.

Armed police escorted government ministers, senior officials and other staff to work along routes which were heavily guarded, witnesses said. State-owned buses, also under escort, plied several routes but carried few passengers. Their drivers wore crash helmets and the windshields were covered with wire grills, a precaution against attack.

The strike was called by an eight-party alliance headed by Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League and a seven-party grouping headed by Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh National Party (BNP) as part of their campaign to force the resignation of President Hussain Mohamad Ershad and bring about fresh general elections.

On Tuesday the security forces rounded up at least six opposition leaders and several hundred activists. They also rounded up several thousand young vagrants and suspected picketers on the streets, police said.

On Monday, Mr. Ershad warned against the strike. "The people will prove this time that they are against strikes and that they are not with those who call such strikes every now and then to achieve their selfish ends."

So far Wednesday no private transport was on the streets, which were virtually deserted, witnesses said. Several jeeps carrying supporters of the ruling Jatiya Party were reported in several areas of the capital. Police and opposition sources said there had been no reports of any clashes or violence but were afraid of trouble later. There were rival demonstrations here Tuesday for and against the strike. All shops, except restaurants were reported closed.

Residents contacted in the southern port city of Chittagong said the strike there had got off to a peaceful start Wednesday. Rival demonstrations in Chittagong Tuesday had seen a car carrying two government ministers attacked with stones, press reports said. Police intervened immediately to rescue the ministers who were unhurt, although their car was damaged.

'Pitched Battles' in Streets

BK220654 Hong Kong AFP in English
0649 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Dhaka, July 22 (AFP) — Pro- and anti-government supporters fought pitched battles on Dhaka streets and police baton-charged picketers Wednesday as a 54-hour general strike called by the opposition began here, police and eyewitnesses said.

Four people were admitted to hospital, mostly with knife wounds, Dhaka's casualty hospital said, but one report from the New Market and Shahbagh areas said that 50 people had been injured as rival groups exchanged bricks and hand-bombs.

Police said that their control room was flooded with calls for reinforcements, and that in several places police had baton-charged picketers who were throwing bricks at them.

Clashes erupted in several areas of the city, opposition sources and witnesses said, after armed supporters of the ruling Jatiya Party attacked picketers and strike supporters who had barricaded some major city roads. In one incident, Jatiya supporters riding in jeeps opened fire on picketers, who responded by hurling stones and firecrackers. In some areas, strikers set fire to motor tyres and stoned government vehicles, eyewitnesses said.

A bank official in the Motijheel area said the road outside the multi-storey building had become a battlefield, with armed supporters and opponents of the strike fighting with firecrackers and other missiles. A police official at Motijheel confirmed the incident but could not give details.

The 54-hour general strike was called by major opposition parties as part of a campaign to force the resignation of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and bring about fresh general elections.

Foreign Ministry Rebuts Zia Statement on Kashmir

BK211550 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1540 GMT 21 Jul 87

["Our Spokesman's Reply" to queries on Pakistani President Zia's statements on Kashmir; dated 21 July 1987]

[Text] We have seen reports of President Zia's speech wherein he described Kashmir as "an integral part of Pakistan", and spoke in a manner calculated to arouse passions on this issue. It is possible that domestic compulsions may have inspired President Zia in making such a statement. He cannot, however, be unmindful of India's well-known and legally irrefutable position that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and that the only issue which remains to be resolved is that of vacation by Pakistan of its illegal occupation of POK [Pakistan Occupied Kashmir]. President Zia cannot also wish away the fact that both countries are committed to resolve this issue in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement. President Zia had himself renewed Pakistan's commitment in this regard during his visit to New Delhi on December 17th, 1985 when he had stated that this question would be resolved in accordance with the Simla Agreement and at an appropriate time.

Pakistan Frigate Purchase Will Escalate Arms Race

BK210341 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Reports from Washington say Pakistan intends to purchase Type-23 frigates armed with American-made Harpoon missiles and a Seawolf vertical launch system. The U.S. defense industry sources quoting a Pakistani spokesman in London say the deal worth over $800 million is expected to be signed any day. Observers believe the induction of these frigates will make Pakistan the first country in the region to have these frigates. It will further escalate the arms race.

Indian, Pakistani Troops Exchange Fire in Kashmir

BK211405 Hong Kong AFP in English 1350 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] New Delhi, July 21 (AFP) — An Indian farmer was killed over the weekend in an exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistani troops across the border in disputed Kashmir State, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported Tuesday. The shooting Saturday broke out after Indian troops objected to alleged encroachments by Pakistani soldiers at a village about four kilometres (2.5 miles) from the border township of Poonch and lasted seven hours, PTI said.

The farmer, Talib Hussain, a Moslem, was grazing his cattle when he was wounded seriously by Pakistani soldiers in the exchange of fire in which both sides used heavy machine guns, PTI said, quoting official reports reaching Jammu City. The farmer died late Monday.

The news agency said that in the past 12 months at least seven Indian civilians had died and more than 10 had been wounded in "unprovoked firing" by Pakistani troops in the border areas of northern Jammu and Kashmir State, India's only Moslem-majority state. India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since independence in 1947, regularly accuse each other's troops of opening unprovoked fire.

Pakistani Embassy officials here were not immediately available for comment.

Pakistani Nuclear Inspection Offer Termed 'Propaganda'

BK211313 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 10 Jul 87 p 9

[Editorial: "Junejo's Offer"]

[Text] There is nothing new in the Pakistani Prime Minister's offer of an agreement with India for mutual inspection of each other's nuclear facilities. Mr Junejo told Japan's *Kyodo News Service* that Pakistan would allow India to inspect the controversial Kahuta uranium enrichment plant near Rawalpindi in exchange for a similar inspection of Indian nuclear installations. Mr Junejo must have known that India has rejected similar suggestions in the past and would do so again. He made the offer simply for gaining a propaganda advantage during his forthcoming visit to Japan where non-proliferation remains a live issue in public mind.

For years Pakistan has been moving a resolution in the UN General Assembly wanting to declare South Asia a nuclear weapons-free zone. India has opposed the resolution on the ground that it would deprive India of its right to exercise its nuclear option despite the fact that China has already stockpiled nuclear weapons. Two years ago, Pakistan suggested a four-point plan envisaging India to: adhere to the Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]; accept full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Association; subscribe to the concept of a nuclear weapons-free zone in South Asia; and enter into a bilateral treaty with Pakistan renouncing nuclear weapons. Similar suggestions have been sent to India by the United States which specially sent one of its senior State Department officials, Mr Michael Armacost, in an attempt to convince New Delhi that an agreement with Pakistan on the question is in the best interest of India, Pakistan and the region.

India has rightly opposed such moves simply because these are essentially meant to push the NPT through the back door. India has always resisted the pleas for signing the NPT on the plea that it discriminates between the nuclear 'haves' and the 'have-nots' by letting the nuclear weapons states to retain or expand their nuclear arsenals denying to others, at the same time, the right to go in for nuclear weapons. Even if India does not have the bomb and perhaps does not want to have one, it has the option to go nuclear. The suggestion made by Pakistan's Prime Minister seeks to deny India the right to retain this option. This India cannot afford to give up particularly because Pakistan's nuclear programme and intentions are suspect. No Indian government can after all ignore Western reports as well as the implications of the interview given by Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan to Mr Kuldip Nayar which say a lot about Pakistan's nuclear programme.

Pakistani Role in U.S. Strategy Creates 'Obstacle'

BK211610 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 16 Jul 87 p 9

[Editorial: "U.S. and Pakistan"]

[Text] If fresh proof was needed to establish how closely has Pakistan been integrated with the United States' strategic plans for the Gulf it came with the revelation of last April's testimony of Gen. George B. Crist, commander of the US CENTCOM. He said that with the delivery of the fifth and final AWACS to Saudi Arabia on March 31 this year, eight per cent of the US AWACS fleet would be free from its erstwhile duty with the Saudi Eastern Defence Sector for re-location. As around the same time Prime Minister Junejo sent an SOS to President Reagan for airborne early warning systems against intensified air attacks from the Afghan side, it may be assumed that the AWACS freed from Saudi Arabia would be deployed in Pakistan. To get over certain legal hurdles, these planes may not be sold or leased to Islamabad, but Pakistan may be integrated more closely with the American defence system which would make such deployment possible.

In matters like Pakistan's defence tie-ups with the US it is wiser to go by circumstantial evidence than official Pakistani statements. After all, President Zia even denied extending assistance to Afghan mujahidins many of whom are fighting their war with Kabul from bases in Pakistan. It is Islamabad's sovereign wish to let its territory be used by Afghan rebels in the overall context of its fear of Soviet aggression. But what happens when the Soviet troops are withdrawn from Afghanistan? Such an eventuality will not weaken the US-Pak defence ties, and prove the point that these relations are not coterminous with Soviet presence in Afghanistan. It is clear that Pakistan is hell-bent on acquiring the most sophisticated American weapons even at the cost of allowing base facilities to the U.S. That should explain why Islamabad spurns New Delhi's offer of a Treaty of Friendship, Peace and Cooperation, for its provisions include a commitment by both not to allow base facilities to a third country. The close US-Pak defence link-up also negates the American claim that it does not seek military bases in the region.

It is equally clear that the Pak-US defence relationship, ostensibly aimed at repulsing Communist threat, is emerging as the biggest obstacle to South Asian amity. Washington has routinely assured New Delhi that the arms it gives to Pakistan will not be used against India. President Eisenhower even wrote a letter to Mr Nehru in 1959 that contained such assurances. But history is evidence that the solemn words have not been enforced. US officials have admitted that Pakistan has used against India weapons whose targets were different. Such assurances have ceased to mean anything substantial. When the senior US State Department official, Mr Michael Armacost, visits New Delhi later this month, India should make it clear that it would not be possible for it to give much importance to any American proposition if it is a mere reiteration of soothing words of the earlier variety.

Tamil Nadu Chief Briefed on Sri Lanka Ethnic Talks

BK211251 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, and the Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, today met the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, in Madras and briefed him on the talks recently held with the Sri Lankan leaders. Later, Mr Menon told newsmen that Mr M.G. Ramachandran was given the details of the discussion Mr Dixit had in Colombo. Our Madras correspondent says the officials also met the secretary general of the Tamil United Liberation Front, Mr Amirthalingam, and told him of the talks.

Last week, the Sri Lankan Government reportedly conceded to certain basic proposals of the Tamil groups. These included merger of the northern and eastern provinces.

PLO's 'Arafat To Make 3-Day Visit to New Delhi

BK210854 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] The PLO chairman, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, will be paying a 3-day state visit to India from the 27th of this month. This was officially announced in New Delhi today.

'Terrorists' Responsible for Politician's Death Killed

BK210353 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] In Punjab, five terrorists were killed in two encounters in Mirpur area near Batala in Gurdaspur District last night. According to the state police chief, Mr Ribeiro, they were responsible for several killings in Ajnala and Tarn Taran areas including the murder of senior Congress-I leader and former minister, Mr Satnam Singh Bajwa. Mr Ribeiro said that 3 Sten guns including the weapon of Mr Bajwa's gunman, 2 guns, and 400 rounds of ammunition were recovered from the killed terrorists.

Gandhi Warns People of Campaign Against Country

BK211626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] The prime minister has cautioned the people about a systematic campaign being carried out against India since the beginning of the year. Addressing Congress-I workers from various parts of the country in New Delhi today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said there is some evidence of this campaign and it will be made public at an appropriate time. He called upon the people to work unitedly to fight the forces of destabilization which have their roots abroad. The prime minister reiterated his government's determination to deal with corruption with an iron hand.

REUTER Cited on Ship Searches in Hormuz Strait

LD221224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] According to a *Reuter* report, Japanese shipping sources have announced that two Kuwaiti oil tankers, under the U.S. flag and guarded by the U.S. Navy, began their voyage in the Persian Gulf today and arrived at the Strait of Hormuz.

According to a Radio American [as heard] report, each oil tanker is being escorted by two U.S. warships. According to this report, vessels of the U.S. Navy are presently on alert — the so-called third-degree position. In this condition, the armed forces move about on the decks of the ships and keep watch to prevent the approach of Revolution Guards, who may have been waiting in ambush in fast boats laden with explosives.

The *Reuter* report adds that the reflagging of the Kuwaiti oil tankers with the U.S. flag has been condemned as a dangerous move by many U.S. Congressmen.

According to the U.S. state radio's report, the U.S. Defense Department spokesman today expressed anxiety over the reflagging of Kuwaiti ships. He called it a dangerous mission for U.S. forces. Meanwhile, U.S. War Secretary [title as heard] Weinberger, while discussing this point, conceded that the United States is waiting for any kind of attack by Iran on the Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Persian Gulf. He said that Reagan's decision concerning the guarding of Kuwaiti ships is dangerous, but that the United States must play its role in the Persian Gulf.

The *Reuter* report cites shipping circles as saying today that the Iranian Navy has increased cargo inspections of those ships arriving in the Persian Gulf. These sources said that it is common for the Iranian Navy to inspect ships entering the Strait of Hormuz to look for Iraq-bound military equipment.

Khamene'i Discusses UN Gulf Resolution, France

LD212017 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0934 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Speech by Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in Tabriz 20 July; monitored in progress — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Addressing the citizens of Tabriz, I would like to tell you that despite conspiracies, despite the East and the West having joined hands, despite a shooting war, despite an economic blockade, despite a comprehensive cultural and ideological effort, despite dozens of radio stations broadcasting against us day and night, despite the diplomatic war that they have launched in Europe and elsewhere, despite a boycott affecting news about us, despite dozens of other factors and elements which we may not even be aware of, despite all of this, the Islamic Republic will triumph over the East, over the West, over arrogance, plots, shortsightedness, and any other aggression and transgression. [chants of "God is great" and other slogans]

When our society was completely dominated by the dark repression of monarchical tyranny, we still believed in that eventuality. When all external appearances and manifestations pointed to the contrary, we still believed it in our hearts, as God is our witness. [passage omitted] Our hope is a sure one. What I want to say is that this is a divine tradition. If you ask me what experience teaches us, I will tell you that it teaches us the same thing. There was a day when we were few, we were meek, but God gave us victory, thanks to the power of faith, unity, and our own action. [passage omitted]

Our Armed Forces today are highly efficient. Our Armed Forces today are a cohesive, able, and faithful army. Our Islamic Revolution Guards Corps today is recognized as the most powerful people's army in the world. When our Islamic Revolution Security Committees, our Gendarmerie, and our police today perform valuable duties, and when our people have acquired the power of political analysis and fully appreciate the importance of various issues — why should we not be optimistic in these circumstances? It is with such hope that we are engaged in a war against the enemies of God.

The important issue before us today, brothers and sisters, is that we are at a peculiar juncture. What we are experiencing today is unprecedented in the history of the Islamic Revolution. We are today in an extremely interesting, important, and unprecedented situation. If the problems we encountered earlier in the course of the revolution were common to other revolutions, then the issues we face today are unprecedented as far as other revolutions are concerned. [passage omitted]

The problems we have encountered since the start of the revolution were largely — or mostly — those experienced by other revolutions as well. However, what is happening today is different. This is unique to our revolution. This is our first experience with it. The issue concerns the fact that the arrogant world powers have felt unable to challenge the revolution single-handedly. So they seek out allies, attempt to make a concerted move, breathlessly try to launch an attack only to be defeated each time and be made a laughing stock the world over — something that has happened to Mr Reagan and the other U.S. leaders.

This is the first experience. We knew before that they wanted to add a diplomatic war to their political and propaganda clamor. What is a diplomatic war? A diplomatic war consists of pressuring diplomatic representatives in various parts of the world in order to destroy them. This would place the Islamic Republic in a difficult position and hamper it in terms of diplomatic activity. They wanted to add this to whatever else they were doing. All this has been defeated.

When the Americans came on the scene after the Russians became involved in the issue of the Kuwaiti ships and the Persian Gulf and started to compete with the Russians — who said that they would reflag 3 Kuwaiti ships under their own flag — by offering to reflag 11 ships under the U.S. flag, the Americans believed that they held the trump card in the Gulf. They did not think that the Islamic Republic was prepared to stand up to the great East-West alliance. Of course, we also knew that at that time the United States had held detailed discussions with Britain, France, and several other European countries. This was an attempt by Reagan to win them over to his side. At every appropriate point, we adopted the necessary stand in our Friday

sermons. Those brothers who heard these sermons could guess what course of action to take at any given time.

At that time they were sure that they would win; that is, frighten the Iranian nation, drive it out of the arena, and destroy its self-confidence. This is the key to superpower policy. However, they failed. The most exalted Almighty God also helped us. In fact, we clearly saw the hand of God in the issues relating to the Persian Gulf. Our nation also stood firm, and the officials of the Islamic Republic adopted the necessary position, as befits a revolutionary nation. Today America, its rulers, and its friends and allies are beset by untold difficulties. America has appealed to the United Nations. This is one of the misfortunes of nations and governments in the world today, to see the United Nations under U.S. influence; that is, to see the United States trying to bring the United Nations under its influence.

It has been more than 2 months now, and we have yet to hear the UN Security Council resolution sponsored by the United States being made public. They have promised to release it any day; they promised it time and again and postponed it. They did so because the United States was forced to retreat in the face of the Iranian nation's firmness, and it lost its political credibility. Japan, Britain, Italy, and Germany are no longer prepared to accept unequivocally what the United States says or advises about Iran. Even the permanent members of the UN Security Council are not prepared to become a toy in the hands of the United States. However, the United States continues to apply pressure. The reason why the UN Security Council resolution, which the United States drafted against Iran, has not been issued is that the United States has been unable to pressure the Security Council into passing it. There is disagreement among them. They plan to call on Iran to surrender unconditionally and to accept an imposed peace; otherwise, there will be economic sanctions, more international difficulties, and greater pressure than before from all sides. This is the main thrust of the resolution. The resolution has been sitting there for 2 or 3 months now. There is, of course, a great probability that America's partners in the Security Council will reject the resolution in the form the United States is seeking. But I declare here that even if it is issued, it will be worthless to us because it will have been passed under U.S. influence and the arrogant power of Reagan. [chants of "God is great" and other slogans]

No one should think that we are against the United Nations or opposed to it. No. The United Nations is an international assembly. There is no reason why we should oppose an international body. We are opposed to the United States influencing the United Nations. We are opposed to the fact that the Security Council is susceptible to influence by a superpower. We say that the United Nations should be independent. If the United Nations is supposed to play a part, why should that role be in line with America's wishes or under its influence? [passage omitted]

We have the same feeling of opposition to, and feelings toward, France. You know what has taken place with France. Over the past couple of weeks, there has been a great propaganda uproar around the world about the problem with France. This is part of the diplomatic pressure I alluded to earlier. Proceeding from a baseless line of reasoning, a member of the Islamic Republic's Embassy in France was summoned. The embassy was then cordoned off on a groundless pretext. Then one heard of unpleasant moves and utterances, which are beneath an independent, free, and democratic country. When France wanted to normalize its relations with us and improve ties and contacts, we set three conditions. You, the Iranian nation, know that when our dear imam went to France, we developed a favorable attitude toward France. Our people had feelings of affection for France in those days. [passage omitted] When the French came to tell us that they wanted to improve relations, we set three conditions.

First, we said, you owe us some money. They had obtained a loan under the shah and had promised to repay it unconditionally at any time Iran decided to call it in. According to some calculations, that loan is now worth some $4 billion -- something between $3 and $4 billion. This is a huge asset. The French are holding on to it, refusing to pay. We told them that they should repay us what they owe. If you cannot pay us in one lump sum, then do it in installments.

Our second condition was that they should not provide refuge to Iran's enemies in Paris or other French cities. The third condition was that they should end their unreserved support for the aggressive Iraqi regime. We told them: Were you yourselves not victims of aggression under the Germans who came and occupied Paris in World War II? You have tasted aggression and should opppose any aggressor. Was Hitler the only terrible aggressor? Any aggressor is a Hitler, whether his name is Saddam or anything else. They accepted all this and said that they would gradually do all those things. They started to repay some of the loan. They also did some of what they promised to do about Iran's enemies. However, for reasons which are clear to Iranian analysts, France was unable to continue along that path. They were unable to finish what they had promised to do. Perhaps they thought that the Islamic Republic could be deceived. Perhaps they thought that our leaders could be toyed with. However, the Islamic Republic's firm approach has shown that that is not so; they are mistaken. Because of their own internal conflicts, which are a patent example of satanical conflicts, you can now see what is happening in the world's so-called civlized countries — something that gets them in trouble.

They challenged the Islamic Republic, and that has led to the break in relations. The world's analysts, including the French press and papers published in Paris, have reached the verdict that in this test of strength it was France, and not Iran, that was defeated. This is another matter.

What we rely on, and what gives us our strength as we enter the arena, is the profound faith that lies in the hearts of our people. As an official in the Islamic Republic I tell you, dear brothers and sisters, that in all tests of strength and in whatever else the future holds, we shall not, with God's blessings, compromise our principles and our accepted revolutionary beliefs by one iota. [chants of "God is great" and other slogans]

Regarding the Persian Gulf, it is a logical statement. Whoever came here and heard our logical remarks about the issue of the Kuwaiti ships had no answer. Some people arrived with a great deal of ammunition and left deflated. The point is, a country is at war with us. There is another country that is selling oil for the country that is at war with us. Oil tankers pass in front of us. It

permits the country that is at war with us to cross to the sea and hit our oil tankers. I said to that representative, who was carrying a message not only from his own country but from the seven industrialized countries: Suppose they hit your ship at sea. If the person who attacks your ship is giving you lip-service, would you retaliate or not? He had no answer. They want Iranian oil tankers to be attacked and damaged, Iran's oil exports to be halted, and its transactions to face difficulties. However, they also want other ships to come and pass through the same course and sell oil on behalf of the country that is creating this situation for us. Is this practical? Is it reasonable? We said: We will not allow this.

We want peace in the Persian Gulf. We do not want anyone to attack any ship in the Persian Gulf. This is our proposal. We want all ships to come and go in the Persian Gulf in security. This is our proposal. Iraq does not want to accept this. Because she cannot do it herself, she uses Kuwait as a platform for dealing blows. We fire; it could hit either one of them. One of them attacks and the other helps him to deal blows.

Now the United States has entered the scene. It has flexed its muscles and said: I will carry Kuwait's oil. We say: While ships are carrying Kuwait's oil under the U.S. flag, two things can happen. Our own oil tankers may not be hit. So much the better! Instead of 11 ships, the United States may bring 100 ships and carry Kuwait's oil; we will not do anything. It is Kuwait's disgrace that it seeks the help of others. Nevertheless, we will not interfere. The second case is that while the U.S. flag is protecting Kuwait's oil, our ships are hit by missiles and bullets. In that case, we will not consider under which country's flag the oil is being shipped. Even if it is the U.S. flag, we will hit it, time and again. [shouts of approval from the audience]

This is a serious and vital matter; please allow me to continue. The superpowers are trying to test the Islamic Republic's determination and resolve. We shall approach the issue with this same Islamic firmness. Perhaps those ruling the United States today, that is, Reagan's associates, will commit another act of stupidity. So far they have committed several. With their lies about the McFarlane saga they committed one act of stupidity. With their duplicity they committed an act of stupidity. With their false statements to the American people and to the world they committed an act of stupidity. In this matter, with their entry into the arena and their unwarranted support for one party in the war, they have committed an act of stupidity. This is something congressional members today are bringing to the Reagan administration's notice. If they commit additional acts of stupidity, we should stand against it as an Islamic duty. This is the issue.

There are evil whisperers who withdraw when God's name is mentioned [khannas] here and there in society. They seek to undermine this firm resolve of the Islamic Republic. They would say: Why are you getting into a conflict with the United States? The same thing was said during the shah's rule. They used to say: Why are you getting into a conflict with the shah? They used to say: It is fist against weapons. How can one fight with one's fist against weapons? They say the same thing about the United States today. They are mistaken.

They think that if a nation retreats in the face of an aggressor, the aggressor will regret his aggression. They think that there is pity in the heart of an aggressor. If the Iranian nation had listened to such things, then our Khuzestan, our Ahvaz, today would be in the hands of the Saddam regime -- if the enemy had not advanced even further. The nature of an aggressor is to advance if he encounters little or no resistance. If the Iranian nation retreats in the face of U.S. bullying and clamor, it will never find happiness and peace. They hope to see some weakness from the nation. The blood of thousands of innocent people is on their hands. Do you think that they know anything about pity and fairness? The only thing they fear is the power of the people. If the nation demonstrates strength and courage, they will be forced to retreat.

In the Persian Gulf and in this situation -- which was brought about by U.S. stupidity, hegemonistic attitudes, and greed -- we shall not retreat one step. If we did, it would be against Islam's commandment and the urgent needs of the revolution. Islam and the revolution will not allow us to do that. We shall stand firm and with God's blessings we shall win, as we have demonstrated time and again when we have stood firm. The United States will be forced to withdraw from the region in humiliation and shame. [chants of "God is great" and other slogans] [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Visits Ahar, Discusses War, Revolution

LD211719 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Prov., July 21, IRNA — Iran's victory in the war and its foiling of superpower plots is a victory for Islam, said President Khamene'i to a multitudinous gathering of people in the city of Ahar today.

Khamene'i, currently on a five-day tour to this northwestern province, said that Iranian people will fight the enemy to the last drop of their blood in order to attain victory. The president said the situation of the Iranian Muslim forces in war fronts is "very good." Iranian combatants throughout the fronts are counting down to fulfill "their great responsibility," he said.

On spread of the Islamic revolution abroad the president said foreign military expeditions are not responsible for the export of the revolution as some people imagine, but rather people of other countries imitate Iranian people's sacrifice and resistance against enemies of Islam. People in Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and other Asian and European countries get inspiration from the Islamic Revolution of Iran, since the revolution is based on the Koran, Khamene'i said.

He said despite global media propaganda against the Islamic revolution, the people of the world especially those of the Third World back the Islamic revolution. The president said the unity among the Iranian people is the reason for the victories and great achievements of the revolution.

Meanwhile, the people of Ahar expressed their readiness to participate in kamikaze operations against U.S. mercenaries in the Persian Gulf saying that a direct fight with the "great satan" (U.S.) is a great stride for materialising the lofty goals of Islam. President Khamene'i left Ahar for the city of Ardebil later today.

Calls Reflagging 'Conspiracy'

LD212357 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Excerpts] At a gathering of the people of Ardebil Tuesday afternoon as part of his visit to East Azerbayjan Province, Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i praised the present situation of the Islamic Revolution of Iran in the world and referred to the recent UN resolution on the war between Iran and Iraq, as well as U.S. efforts to have this resolution issued. He said: We are not against the United Nations and our enemies must not create a bad atmosphere around us. However, we do not accept the influence of the superpowers on the United Nations. If the United Nations belongs to the nations, then it must work independently, serving the interests of all nations. [passage omitted]

In another part of his speech, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council referred to U.S. adventurism in the Persian Gulf. He said: We will never surrender to force. Can we allow Iraq to attack our ships and not reciprocate? What answer do we have to our nation and to the wise people of the world?

The U.S. has announced that it will reflag Kuwaiti tankers today. I announce here and now and bring to the notice of the world that we regard this move as a joint conspiracy by Kuwait and America against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and we will strike in any way we deem in our interests.

On the Persian Gulf crisis the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council proposed: The only way to avoid a confrontation is to pressure Iraq not to hit our ships. Otherwise, if Iraq resorts to mischief, we will strongly retaliate and our enemies will be hit hard. [passage omitted]

Mr Khamene'i, the president of the Republic, stressed in a speech at the glorious gathering of the people of Ahar township, who are always on the scene: Though the Islamic revolution began in Iran, its supporters are scattered throughout the five continents. Even in Europe, which is anti-Islam and has a few Muslims, the small groups in France, the UK, and other countries today are regarded as a danger to the powerful people. [passage omitted]

Mr Khamene'i explained the situation in the imposed war: We must always be prepared. If we are, the outcome of the war is apparent. We will concentrate all our forces and, God willing, we will be victorious; we will solve all problems.

Foreign Minister Calls UN Resolution 'Unacceptable'

LD212234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati has announced the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the UN Security Council's resolution in an interview with our correspondent.

He said that it contains many shortcomings and contradictions and is unacceptable to us. First, no one consulted us, a main party in the issue. Iran — a powerful country having the initiative on the battlefields and having placed the exhausted Iraqi forces in a suicidal position — should have been consulted. Second, some signatories have acted in a contradictory manner, as they themselves violated this resolution even before the ink had dried. Third, in this resolution there has been no reference to the problem of Iraq's warmongering in the Persian Gulf which has endangered world peace.

Mr Velayati added in this regard: In the Security Council's resolution they have even refrained from referring to Iraq as an aggressor. This is what various world governments have said. Some have admitted this fact in their private and political talks with us.

He added: Clause 5 of this resolution asks all countries to exercise a high degree of restraint and not to do anything that might aggravate or intensify the problem. If the increased presence of the Americans in the Persian Gulf is not easing the tension in the region, then what is it doing? The Americans tried hard in the Security Council to show a justified and peace-loving face, and they signed the resolution. However, before the ink was dry they announced that they are bringing their warships to the Persian Gulf. They even announced how many warships and attack aircraft they plan to deploy there.

Our foreign minister stressed: We do not need directives from any country or any international organization in order to defend, support,and protect our country, our revolution, and the Islamic Republic. If the course adopted by international organizations is just, we will accept it. In principle we favor the fulfillment of justice and welcome any move in this direction. But if international organizations are to be the repository of unjust and unfair ideas, we will not accept them.

Mr Velayati also stressed that, according to the reasons stated and also in line with reasons which will be given in another detailed statement, this resolution is unacceptable to us.

At the end of this interview, our foreign minister viewed the positive points of the resolution and the inclusion of demands of the Islamic Republic, saying: Of course, the resolution refers to the bombing of residential areas, the use of chemical weapons, attacks on civilian and passenger planes, and attacks on merchant vessels; naturally, attention will be directed at Iraq, but this is not enough. This international assembly must specify what decision it plans to adopt with regard to naming Iraq as the aggressor. If they refrain from naming Iraq as the aggressor, then they lack the courage to adopt a correct and just decision.

Larijani Departs for Pakistan With Message

LD220008 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Mr Larijani, undersecretary for international and economic affairs at the Foreign Ministry, left for Islamabad Tuesday afternoon at the head of a delegation. He is carrying a message from Mr Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for Mr Ziaul Haq, president of Pakistan. He will meet with Pakistani officials to exchange views on the latest regional developments, the current international situation, and problems of mutual interest.

Envoy in FRG Conveys Velayati Message to Genscher

NC210605 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] The Central News Unit has reported from Bonn that the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to West Germany met with FRG Foreign Minister Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher and presented him with a message from Mr Velayati, our foreign minister.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Kurdish Moves Near Mirgah Sur

LD211452 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] According to reports received from the Ramadan Headquarters, the center for irregular warfare of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Iraqi hezbollahi Peshmerga succeeded in attacking the headquarters of an Army company and its adjoining posts in the (Gowharkhaled) region near the Iraqi town of Mirgah Sur in a series of partisan operations. In these operations, a number of posts were captured by the Kurdish hezbollahi Peshmergas, and heavy losses and casualties were inflicted on the company headquarters. Following these operations, the Peshmerga returned safely to base.

According to this report, the Peshmerga of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan succeeded in downing one helicopter of the Zionist enemy. In addition, the forces of Islam destroyed one military vehicle and killed two Ba'thist mercenaries, Colonel Sa'dun Khalaf 'Abbas, deputy commander of the 68th Brigade, and 1st Lieutenant Zaydan 'Ali Mahmud, the briefing officer [afsar-e towjih] of the 68th Brigade of the Ba'thist forces, on the road between (Ourtu) and Khanaqin.

The same report notes that two posts of the Zionist enemy in the Shaykh Hajji and (Badabad) regions on the (Bukan-Khalqan) road were captured by the Peshmerga yesterday. In the course of these clashes, 41 mercenaries were killed and 3 others captured by the Peshmergas. The rest fled.

This report adds: During the last few days, eight members of the 98th Khalifah Battalion of Iraq, carrying some small weapons, surrendered to the Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga. When the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy attempted to launch an attack on the (Fizrut) and (Panjru) region, around the town of Mirgah Sur, the heroism of the fighting Kurdish Peshmerga forced them to retreat after inflicting heavy casualties on them. In these operations, 23 Saddamist mercenaries were arrested and 3 of their bulldozers destroyed by the Peshmerga.

Communique No 2,904

LD211706 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran smashed another Iraqi counterattack to retake strategic Heights 402 in Sumar, western fronts, Monday night, killing or wounding 600 enemy soldiers and forcing the others to retreat. A large amount of Iraqi military equipment was also destroyed.

Announcing the above here Tuesday, the 2904th Joint Staff communique said that at least 150 Iraqi vehicles were destroyed by Iranian artillery fire in Sumar over the past few days.

The navy coastal artillery fire destroyed two Iraqi vessels in the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway early Monday, killing all personnel aboard them.

Iranian navy gunboats intercepted and searched four oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them.

Fifteen Iraqi soldiers were killed in the southeren fronts and several enemy multiple rocket launchers, a number of logistical trucks and 15 gun emplacements and observation posts were destroyed in the northwestern fronts in artillery duels with Iranian forces yesterday.

An Iranian patrol convoy clashed with an Iraqi patrol unit in a northwestern front Monday, killing or wounding a number of enemy patrols and capturing four others, the communique concluded.

Troops Control Al-Faw-Umm Qasr

LD221041 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., July 22, IRNA — Two Iraqi brigades and a commando battalion of the 14th Division of the Seventh Corps were demolished during an aborted Iraqi offensive on the Al-Faw-Umm Qasr axis launched early Tuesday.

An Iranian field commander said that several Iraqi officers and commanders were among the slain, including First Lieutenant 'Abd al-Karim Jasim Muhammad, commander of the commando brigade of the 14th Division. The commander further said that following the defeat of enemy forces, who sustained heavy casualties, several Iraqi soldiers were captured, while the remaining fled the operational scene.

At present, he said, Muslim combatants have full control over the area and are preventing all movements of the enemy forces.

Afghan Rebel Leader Cited on Military Successes

LD211630 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., July 21, IRNA — Some 65 Soviet warplanes have been shot down in Afghanistan and 3,500 state para-military forces have surrendered and taken prisoner by Afghan Muslim mujahidin over the past three months, a mujahidin leader told IRNA here today.

Nasrullah Emad, deputy head of Jamiyat-e Eslami Afghanistan Party said that mujahidin captured several major Soviet bases including the strategic one in Takhar border province during the

period. All Soviet forces' efforts to block mujahidin supply routes have been suppressed, he said.

Emad cited the communist siege of the city of Qandahar in which the enemy was forced to retreat last week, losing 17 warplanes, 100 tanks and 500 commandos as an example. He said unconditional withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan would pave the way for a power transfer, so that a provisional government could be established to be later replaced by a permanent Islamic government founded upon Koranic rules.

Emad who is here to participate in a ceremony commemorating the martyrdom of Safi-Allah Afzali [name as received], commander of the military wing of the party, said that Afzali was assassinated by government agents whom he said have been located by the mujahidin in Afghanistan, and will be punished.

Clandestine Radio Claims Embassy To 'Murder' Gorji

NC210743 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] According to reports received by the Flag of Freedom Radio, officials of the Islamic Republic's Embassy in Paris plan to murder Vahid Gorji and portray his death as suicide. Gorji has become a danger to the Islamic Republic because he knows a great deal about Islamic Republic officials' links with terrorist operations.

NEPAL

Further Reportage on Visit of FRG Chancellor

Holds Talks With Shrestha

BK210450 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and [FRG] Chancellor Dr Helmut Kohl held official talks at Singha Durbar today. Prime Minister Mr Shrestha and Chancellor Dr Kohl met without aides for about half an hour. They were joined later by officials of both the sides. They are believed to have discussed bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual concern.

Emerging from the talks, Chancellor Dr Kohl said: We discussed all questions, political questions of common interest to us. We discussed the international situation and above all, bilateral relations and cooperation and a number of projects in the field of development of the Kingdom of Nepal.

Taking part in the talks were Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Updhyaya, Minister of State for Finance Bharat Bahadur Pradhan, Minister of State for Education and Culture Keshar Bahadur Bista, Royal Nepalese Ambassador to Germany Singh Pratap Shah, and other senior officials. The German side included the federal minister for economic cooperation, Hans Klein, the German ambassador to Nepal, Klaus [last name indistinct], and other senior officials accompanying the distinguished visitor.

Kohl News Conference

LD211106 Hamburg DPA in German 0946 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Kathmandu (DPA) — The Federal Republic and the Kingdom of Nepal intend to further deepen their relations. This was agreed on by Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Nepal's King Birendra, and other representatives from the Nepalese leadership.

Speaking to newsmen today at the end of his 2-day visit to Kathmandu, Kohl promised additional aid to this poverty-stricken, Himalayan country. In this regard Kohl referred to the DM25 million financial aid agreement signed during his visit.

He also promised to send a commission of German industrialists to advise Nepal on ways to enlarge the marketing opportunities for its products.

During this news conference, held at the end of his fourth East Asian trip, Kohl also commented on international politics. He wished Soviet party leader Mikhail Gorbachev every success in the implementation of his policy of openness, saying: "That would be good for all of us." However, no one can yet say whether he will be successful.

The chancellor affirmed that Germany would continue to use all available peaceful means to press for the right to self-determination. Addressing Moscow, he said that anyone advocating a policy of openness and endorsing human rights must also accept the right to self-determination.

In reply to questions by Nepalese journalists, Kohl illustrated the problem of a divided German by asking them whether they would accept the building of a wall running through Kathmandu.

Kohl and Economic Cooperation Minister Hans Klein have accepted the moral obligation to lend assistance to poorer people. The Germans have not forgotten that others helped them after World War II. Kohl predicted a sharpening of the North-South conflict by the year 2000 unless the gap between rich and poor countries is closed.

King Birendra explained to the chancellor his plans to ensure the population's basic supplies by the year 2000. As far as foreign and security policies are concerned, Nepal considers itself a nonaligned country.

On the last day of his visit to Kathmandu, the chancellor toured the Bhaktapur renovation project near the capital where historic buildings are being renovated with German funds.

Karachi Violence Leads to 'Intense Patrolling'

BK220222 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate of Karachi-East last night says that there have been reports of stray incidents of violence by unruly mobs in the Landhi police station areas in the morning. The mobs set two vehicles on fire in the evening and damaged a car owned by an Afghan national. Some members of the unruly mobs also resorted to shooting, which resulted in one policeman being killed and 13 other people, including two policemen, being injured. In another incident of violence, some miscreants killed a policeman. Intense patrolling is continuing in the Landhi police station areas in an effort to bring the situation under control. Many people have been arrested.

Politician Criticized for Secessionist Statement

BK211107 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English
10 July 87 p 6

[Editorial: "G.M. Syed: Playing With Fire"]

[Text] A one-time member of the All-India Muslim League Working Committee, an ardent follower of the Quaid [Jinnah], a revered political figure of Sind, the one who put up the Pakistan Movement Resolution in the Sind Assembly in 1945, Mr. G.M. Syed is now talking about an independent Sind, and if that is not possible, its merger with India. Giving due margin for his old age, and all the maladies that accompany senility, it is difficult to believe all the rabidly anti-Pakistan rhetoric that he has for some time been mouthing in an endless stream. Mr. Syed may have forgotten all that has befallen the Muslims of India since partition took place, but he cannot so innocently turn a blind eye to the events of the last few weeks — the massacre of Muslims in Meerut reaching genocidal proportion; systematic destruction of their property and means of livelihood; and an unconcealed attempt backed by authorities at various levels to reduce Muslims to the status of third-class citizens or, if possible, to make them abandon their homes in India — the country of their birth, the country they have always regarded as their own. They have always behaved as loyal citizens of India, their motherland. Never have they done anything against the interests of the land they are living in, and yet only because they are Muslims, the majority of the population there considers them aliens, deserving of no less than damnation and perdition. What is Mr. Syed opting for? What paradise does he expect to land in? He camouflages his paranoia and hatred by talking of Punjabi domination. There is no dearth of excuses for an evildoer bent upon doing mischief. Even granting his insinuation, does he think that the Hindus would carry him and his like-minded misguided hangerson on their shoulders? How the Hindus exploited the Muslims of Sind, or for that matter the rest of Muslims in India, is a well-known fact and yet the Syed dares to talk of merger with India. Does he want the days of slavery for the Muslims of Sind to return? What does Mr. G.M. Syed want to achieve by propagating such ideas? He is a senior, very senior politician. Is it that when he does not find a place in the political set-up of the country, that he considers his due, he feels frustrated and coins slogans to attract attention? How unfortunate that for narrow personal interests a son of the soil would like to see it go barren. Can't he see that the people of Sind see through his game and that is the reason why the majority have rejected him and he has no more than a handful of followers? No doubt there may be problems of economic justice between various regions (such problems exist in many countries), but to talk of separation is not their solution. Let the great Syed put up some concrete proposals for the betterment of the people of Sind and Pakistan as a whole and he would find many people would support him. Cheap, extremist statements about Sind have outlived their utility. Everyone knows they are not worth the ink wasted on printing them. As an elderly statesman, Mr. G.M. Syed is expected to say something elderly, to take a statesmanlike stand. But he has turned out to be a great disappointment for his countrymen in his old age. He is playing with fire.

Premadasa Views 'External Support' for Separatists

BK210221 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1703 GMT 20 Jul 87

["OANA/Pool" item — all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Colombo, July 20 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa who was interviewed by the NHK Television Network in Japan said today "separatism is a meaningless movement, may be that a few desperate and misguided people have embarked on it".

He said "[words indistinct] reason I don't think that separatism is going to solve any problem." "It is going to be harmful. There is no doubt that the bulk of Tamil people in Sri Lanka do not want a division of their motherland." Actually the separatist movement exists largely because of "external support." External support has strengthened the separatist movement. The prime minister said that otherwise he could quite confidently say "that our people do not want separatism," they want to live together. Because of support from militant forces from abroad "separatism is surviving in our country." He said if "that support is to be withdrawn" the separatist movement in Sri Lanka will "decline and die."

In anyway [as received] our problem in Sri Lanka is not an ethnic problem. It is a problem that can be resolved with "goodwill and understanding" if there are no outside assistance to the separatist and terrorist movement. There are several proposals now on the table regarding this matter, but the separatists have always prevented any discussion or negotiations on this basis. Most of the alternatives discussed involving devolution and decentralization of power and functions to the people.

The prime minister further said that "Japan too has its own quota of terrorism." "Simply because there are terrorist incidents, you are not giving your activities for the betterment of the lives of your people", and terrorism on the pretext of separatism, is a meaningless movement" because Sri Lanka is a small country, is an island and we have been living there for generations together. [sentence as received]

There can be negotiations Prime Minister Premadasa said. Any solution has to be within the provisions of the Constitution of Sri Lanka and that Constitution is very clear. No separate state can be established within Sri Lanka; any solution has to be within the provision of the unitary system of government.

About the airdrop of supplies by India the prime minister said, the sad part about foreign interference is that this interference supports anti-democratic ruthless and criminal elements and declared "the food drops were a violation of the integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka. The int[illegible]onal community has also stated this, almost unanimously. [illegible]ian public opinion is not in favour of this act of aggression. It is a sad and immoral act. The world has condemned this foolish and intemperate action. Sri Lanka is a small and phsysically weak country. It is easy for bigger countries to bully and harass us. But our "moral strength is second to none." We shall not surrender at any cost," adding if there is less foreign interference I am sure we can work things up".

Responding to a question about South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] he said that it is a very "useful regional grouping which has considerable potential relatively new in its existance — unlike ASEAN or the European Economic Community. Being new, we have to develop through experience and practice. There are several areas where the need for improvment is already visible. Now, for instance, we could expand the scope of SAARC to include discussion of bilateral issues, discussion of other concerns that cannot be bilaterally resolved.

The concept of SAARC was constructed on the principle of equality of members. All members both big and small must uphold the unity, the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the member countries. He stressed "We must safeguard that principle in both theory and practice." The prime minister said that many opportunities for modifications and adaptations of existing approaches will arise. "We must look at SAARC as an incomplete structure" and work hard to make it a viable organisation.

[Words indistinct] the prime minister answering a question about the current housing construction programmes in Sri Lanka, explained that "housing situation must be seen in its "historical context" to understand it.

When the present government, "when our government came into office in 1977," there was a serious housing shortage he said, in fact, it was a housing emergency of very grave proportions so, to meet this crisis, we began a "crash programme" to build 100,000 houses. Actually, the speed and the success of this effort led to our next thrust "the one million houses programme." We embarked on the million houses programme in 1984, by using techniques of mobilization, self-help and decentralization, we were able to get "very impressive" results, I should say." Today, Sri Lanka is one of the few countries where the growth of housing exceeds population growth." The one million houses programme would satisfy about one third of our population, and as you know, he said we have a population [words indistinct] million. Actually, "we are very proud of this record."

However, adding "we are not complacent." "We are trying to improve and also refine our approaches," because he concluded by saying we want to "improve strategies" on the basis of the experiences Sri Lanka gains.

'Separatists' Continue Attacks on Military Camps

BK220755 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0730 GMT 22 Jul 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo July 22 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Separatist terrorists continued their round-the-clock attacks on Security Forces camps in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

The Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath* that yesterday, separatist terrorists fired mortars at the Jaffna Fort Army Camp, CTO [Central Telegraph Office] building and the Navatkuly Security Forces camps. Troops effectively returned fire.

At Mullaitivu in eastern Sri Lanka yesterday, separatist terrorists attacked the Oddusudan Army Camp. Government troops repulsed the attack.

'Terrorist Treachery' Claimed

BK211115 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1008 GMT 21 Jul 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 21 (*Lanka Puwath*) — In what is seen as a deliberate provocation to draw retaliatory fire, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) terrorists directed sniper fire at the CTO [Central Telegraph Office] building in Jaffna which is held bythe security forces from the Kannaki Kovil [temple], official sources told *Lanka Puwath*.

They said that another instance of terrorist treachery was to have declared a unilateral ceasefire during the distribution of Indian food supplies in Jaffna and then exploit the situation to launch attacks on the security forces.

The official sources said that the security forces had removed bunkers and the checkpoint at Mariddipuram, two miles from Kankesenturai where the Indian food ships are unloading their cargo, in order to facilitate the distribution of food.

However, the LTTE terrorists made use of the situation to attack the security forces detachment at Mariddipuram.

The security forces had only engaged in defensive actions.

Clearing Operation Launched

BK211606 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] A government communique said in Colombo today that at least 11 Tamil militants were killed in a major security operation in eastern Batticaloa. Five civilians were injured in Jaffna yesterday when Armed Forces fired from the Fort Camp. The security forces are said to have launched an all out clearing operation in the Jaffna Peninsula.